

Submitter: Launa Frahm
On Behalf Of: Frahm Farm
Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor
Measure: HB4002

I, Launa Frahm, live near Ontario, Oregon on a multi-generational farm. We grow onions, corn, dry beans, and wheat. We value our employees are very concerned with HB 4002. If passed the way it is, great damage will occur to our employees. Farming is a different occupation and requires more hours than other jobs, but not all hours are rigorous and taxing. Irrigation requires two times of changing the water daily, but in between time can be filled with jobs such as simple mechanic work in a climate-controlled shop.

With the proposed overtime bill, I will be adjusting their hours to a 40-hour work week, running two crews. The second crew will be consisting of employees that would have been eliminated due to automation.

We do not want to hurt our employees because they are like family to us. Please consider New York State's plan. Both the farmers and the farm workers want to keep a 60 hour work week, and then state the over time on the hours over 60.

Both Washington and California's agriculture overtime plans are flawed. We need to take the time so that these workers can maintain a good standard of living by working more hours and not lose their job to robots. Also harvest must be considered differently. We are working against the weather during harvest, because we often have inclement weather. We know we will pay overtime during harvest, and that is deserved because harvest is taxing.

This is a crucial issue and effects many Oregonians. Come visit the farms and visit with the ag workers. They are happy and do not realize what is being proposed to eliminate their jobs! There are robots just waiting to become farm workers!