

Submitter: Drew Layda
On Behalf Of: Farmers and Agricultural Workers
Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor
Measure: HB4002

My name is Drew A. Layda, I am a resident of unincorporated Multnomah county and a Candidate for House District 31.

I am prior FFA, prior 4h, and a current strict constitutionalist.

As you likely recall, two bills introduced in the House and Senate failed to make it onto the floor. This is because these bills did not follow the food from Oregon's Farms to tables across the globe.

The work session that followed for months between farms and farm workers failed as well. This work session failed because it excluded major stakeholders like the rest of the food-supply-chain.

Not included in this work session was a single food processor, distributor, retailer, or restaurant. ANY conversation involving the food-supply-chain should include these stakeholders as this affects them too.

However the rest of the food supply chain are not merely stakeholders in the progress we seek to advance, they are gatekeepers.

As you may recall hearing, no more than ten food and beverage conglomerates control no less than ninety percent of America's food supply. These ultra-large conglomerates control the pricing paid up and down the food-supply-chain be it directly or indirectly.

What we face is not social racism nearly as much as it is systematic class conflict.

This class conflict originated in 1938 when a constitutional crisis was born out of the complete disregard for the Equal Protections of Laws clause of the 14th amendment - and later blew up to gargantuan proportions after Earl Butz became Secretary of Agriculture with the mantra "get big or get out" and a goal to enact a national supply-chain model in the United States that is now trending toward vertical integration.

It was these policy alterations that began the surge of major agribusiness conglomerates and the drastically reduced economic prosperity of smaller and medium agriculture ventures.

As the number of independent farms in America plummeted, the size of remaining

farms ballooned, all the while the amount of land being farmed remained flat.

It is economic physics.

I am firmly opposed to this bill.

Although this bill seeks to clumsily address the constitutional crisis faced by agricultural workers since 1938, it does nothing to address the equal protection of laws for Oregon's Farms.

This bill would place Oregon's Farms in between the irresistible force that is the constitutional rights of our agriculture workers and the immovable object represented by the 10 major companies controlling the food supply, some of them increasingly themselves involved in the means of agricultural production.

Without buffering, our small and medium Oregon Farms would not disappear, they would be gifted to the ultra-large conglomeration of agribusinesses owned by the 10 companies who control the flow, and increasingly, the production of food.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF OUR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS AND THE EQUAL RIGHTS OF OREGON'S FARM OWNERS.

This bill does not meet my legislative standards as it does not succinctly stop injustice, it simply finds a different target for it.

I urge the committee to set this bill aside and immediately plan a work-session that includes Agricultural Workers, Oregon Farms, as well as the remainder of the Food-supply-chain including processors, distributors, retailers & restaurants.

We are Oregonians, working together we CAN correct the constitutional crisis effecting our ag-workers at the same time averting unnecessary economic bloodletting and the further centralization of our food-supply-chain which is essential to the social and national security of the United States.

This bill will not equip this committee to correct ALL the problems faced by those coming to us for solutions to injustice.

If worked-out ahead of time, WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED, I am willing to bet that the next iteration of this bill WILL PASS.

Thank you and best regards,

Drew A. Layda
Portland Oregon
Candidate for HD3