

Submitter: Tyler Wagstaff
On Behalf Of: Malheur County Potato Growers Association Presiden
Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor
Measure: HB4002

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Thank you for the time, I have to say that I am against HB 4002. I agree that my employee's are very essential, but listening last night to all the testimony that was given the chance to speak I kept hearing the words forced, and made to do things they didn't want to do. I don't know about you but on my farm there is no forcing anyone to do anything. Everyone here works together with one goal. Does that mean every job is our favorite? No but as a whole we enjoy what we do. I don't pay over time right now but I do supply housing, a pickup with free gas to use at work and personal. We also allow our employee's to go to lunch and not check out, also I let them go to soccer games and sit with them there most of the time because we are friends and our kids play together, while still checked in. I really don't like the picture that was painted that farmers treat their employees bad, or force them to do certain things or even to work there. I am sorry that people have to deal with those terrible conditions but please don't punish my employees because other employers are not good people. I have a lot of areas that I can automate and I will to survive but I don't want to tell my friends that I work with that I have to cap their hours because I simply can't afford to pay the time, and if I do pay it during peak times of the year I will have to withdraw allot if not all the added benefits that I offer because I can and want them to be the best off that they can. I don't see that this will help anyone in our area, farmers or employees. My employees make way over the county average for a salary and some on a 3rd grade education. Another group of people that will greatly suffer are high school kids that I offer just to help them out, it really does me know good, these kids are young and can't do much but I think it teaches them good value to work but I can't afford to pay time and a half for the 2 weeks they are hired in between sports and all other things they do when all they want are hours so they can save of some money for a new car, a date or college. this will make it very difficult to do. We as farmers especially in my area are from very small towns and we all grow or decline together wether you own the farm or just work there. I am a third generation farmer and hope to keep it going and hand it down to the next generation. Please for the sake of my whole area, vote against on HB 4002.