

Submitter: Kristen Shelman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

Chair Holvey and Vice Chairs Bonham and Grayber, members of the committee. My name is Commissioner Kristen Shelman.

I signed up to testify and stayed on for the full meeting without being given a chance to share my testimony. I hope you hear my words as you read this testimony.

I oppose 4002 as written. I would like to testify to the importance of the amendments that HB 4002-1 offers to this bill. I represent Harney County as a Commissioner. Harney County has interest in this bill because of the amount of agriculture based work that supports our economy. As it has been presented there are many different sectors of agriculture that are being impacted by this bill. I will speak to that which my background is in. I personally have always worked within the agriculture industry. When I am not representing my constituents as a Commissioner I work in the “range sector of ag”. I think extreme caution needs to be applied when lumping the many sectors of agriculture. My family lives and works on a working cattle ranch. There are 3 full time employees that have worked here for over 35 years. I work part-time for the ranch and sometimes part time even includes 40+ hours depending on the time of year and work to be done. We love the culture and lifestyle that allows us to teach our children how to work and work hard. Hard work isn’t always done 8-5. Please don’t assume that all workers are affected the same. Peak season needs to make sure it has the latitude that works for all sectors and those that deal with livestock should be excluded from the 40 hours. It should be up to the employer and employee relationship to govern the time that should be worked each week. The livestock market doesn’t recognize the costs what went into producing the product that is being raised. As you know there is a lot of discussion in fair markets for these producers. The Federal government has continued to fail these producers and the livestock market hasn’t been corrected. Too many family ranches are already being sold to corporations, bills like this will have a negative affect on family ranches that have employees. The government rarely gets it right especially the first time, please continue to work with all ag sectors to meet the compromise that will work for Oregon agriculture.

The short session should be used to address problems and I wish as much time was being spent on fixing the CAT tax, destruction of the use of diesel, and the other taxations on the ag industry that are pinching agriculture and the volatile markets that we deal with. Please consider that in trying to fix one area with the workers being compensated that you are also adding to the problem by not listening to the people who are affected by Oregon's back door taxation efforts. The taxation is affecting the

very industry you claim to be helping. Do not look at this issue alone without considering the damage legislation and the Governor has done in just the last few years. Oregon can't sustain this type of harm to the agriculture industry.

Sincerely,  
Commissioner Kristen Shelman