



February 9, 2022

Paul Holey  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 4002 - Relating to overtime for agricultural workers; prescribing an effective date.

Business and Labor Committee Members.

On behalf of Pratum Co-op, an Agricultural Cooperative serving the local farming communities since 1946, we strongly oppose House Bill 4002. While this bill does not directly impact Pratum Co-op in relation to our employees, it will significantly impact our member-owners and customers we serve. As an Agricultural Cooperative, anything that has a drastic impact on the local farming community affects our business.

Over the past two years, input costs for farming operations have steadily climbed; however, farming revenues have remained somewhat static. It's anticipated that fuel and fertilizer costs for the 2022 season could reach record highs. Labor costs and the rising minimum wage has left many farmers with little to no margin at the end of an operating cycle. This, paired with record-high labor shortages, already places farming operations at a disadvantage, and an additional overtime bill would surely cripple operations.

Passing this bill will have a significant effect on farm owners, but it will also serve little to no benefit to the employees, many of whom opt for farm work because of the opportunity to work long hours. This bill will likely place farmer-owners and employees at odds due to hour constraints.

We strongly urge you to consider the best interest of the entire farming community and vote **NO** on house bill 4022

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Troy Kuenzi".

Troy Kuenzi  
President