



**Marion County**  
OREGON

Board of Commissioners

February 8, 2022

(503) 588-5212  
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House Committee on Business and Labor  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS**

Danielle Bethell, Chair  
Colm Willis  
Kevin Cameron

**CHIEF  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICER**

Jan Fritz

RE: Marion County Opposes HB 4002

Dear Representative Holvey and House Committee Members,

The Marion County Board of Commissioners is opposed to HB 4002, which would direct farmers to pay overtime wages to Oregon farmworkers. Agriculture is the leading industry in the Marion County economy, and Marion County is one of the state's largest agricultural producers. Protecting and preserving the agricultural industry in Marion County is essential.

The Oregon agricultural industry is already facing many challenges: drought, severe weather, market access, and shortage of skilled labor. This bill would be another blow to already struggling farmers. Most states do not have overtime polices for agricultural workers. Burdening our farmers with this requirement puts them at a disadvantage in the market. Competing in a global market, Oregon farmers will be unable to shift overtime wages to their customers. Farmers will absorb these costs, and to avoid overtime some will be forced to reduce labor hours, hire additional workers, or utilize mechanization. As agriculture costs increase, small family farms may be forced to sell to larger farm corporations, destroying these farms that have been passed down through generations.

Agriculture is a vital resource in Marion County and Oregon. Our farmers and our farmworkers need our continued support. HB 4002 seeks to help our farmworkers, but in the process could ultimately harm them and our family farms. Thank you for your continued work to support our communities. The Marion County Board of Commissioners urges the committee vote no HB 4002.

Sincerely,

Danielle Bethell, Chair

Colm Willis, Vice Chair