

Submitter: Andrew Halliday  
On Behalf Of: Oppose HB 4002  
Committee: Joint Committee On Farm Worker Overtime  
Measure: HB4002

I find myself a family farmer writing to you again for the 3rd time asking you to vote NO on Hb 4002A.

I cannot stress enough how willing and wanting the majority of agriculture is to address any perceived issues with how our employees are treated, but it means that the people in the legislature have to be willing to break party lines, come sit down with growers and work out solutions. The passing of HB 4002A will lead to the unintended consequence of small farms/businesses disappearing even faster on the state and national level. I ask our Representatives to vote NO on HB 4002A and to please take the time to redraft and pass a bill that empowers the agricultural industry of Oregon to continue building multi generation relationships with its employees, and communities. This process has been rushed for the sake of what can only appear to be feel good politics and political gains before a midterm election.

The consequences of HB4002A ranges from:

Capping of employee hours to 40 hours a week, meaning a decrease in earning potential for the employees

The potential that farmers could no longer afford to provide housing to no cost to their employees and families

Potential displacement of those families due to increases in living cost and decreased wages

An increased reliance on H2A employees and/or labor contractors

The financial and regulatory burdens and the potential of this bill forcing farms/businesses to either rely on government subsidies to stay in tack and/or being forced out of business

The decrease in numbers of small family farms/businesses state wide

The consolidation of farm land into larger single entity owned businesses, which would lead to a larger disconnect between farmers and their employees, and communities where the farmland is located

In short, the negative consequences and the burden this bill places on farms and

their employees far out way any positive outcome.

For many months farmers have been writing to its representatives trying to get this legislature to understand how detrimental this bill would be for Oregon Ag, only for our efforts to be flat out ignored, and be treated as if we don't understand our own industry, all while various politicians ensure farmers that the agricultural industry is valued and that they care about the small businesses in our state, then turning around and vilifying our industry and the people in it.

Let's make it clear, a vote in favor of HB 4002A would show how disconnected the Oregon Legislature is from not just ag but small businesses within this state, confirm that our representatives don't care about the industries' input, show how little they think of farmers, and communicate clearly that as long as they get a perceived political win they don't care how it will affect everyone from farm worker to farm owner. Please vote NO on HB4002A - this is not the right bill to help agricultural employees.

Please take the time to work with the agricultural industry and show that you are willing to truly take the time to understand the inputs and issues our industry faces, and give us the chance to help correct any perceived issues with how agricultural employees are treated.

I am not an ethical business owner and person because the State has instructed me to be one, I am an ethical business owner and person DESPITE the State.