

February 24, 2022



Senator Taylor, Co-Chair  
Representative Holvey, Co-Chair  
Members of the Joint Committee on Farm Worker Overtime

**Re: HB 4002A Opposition**

Dear Co-Chairs Sen. Taylor and Rep. Holvey, and Committee Members:

My name is Kyle Fessler with Woodburn Nursery & Azaleas and we are a third-generation grower in the Willamette Valley. We grow nursery stock, grass seed, and other row crops. We employ around 240 employees, many of whom have worked for us for decades. Many of them choose to work with us because we provide stable, year-round employment with great benefits.

I have participated on the Ag overtime workgroup for several months now, and has been made clear that there is nor has there ever been an interest in finding a workable solution to benefit all parties involved. Time and time again, the majority of ag stakeholders have been left out of the discussion, or completely ignored. **An amendment put forward on behalf of the ag community would have given financial support directly to farm workers, but was voted down on party lines, making it clear that the majority party has no interest in actually helping farm workers.**

The legislation advanced out of committee will undoubtedly harm family farms and the farm workers themselves. Instead, the majority has chosen to deny these groups the help they need, and merely advance a partisan political agenda.

This is just one of many examples where urban legislators have pushed their thumb down on rural Oregonians, forcing harmful policies on those they do not understand.

Please oppose HB 4002A this session. This is a harmful policy and you will have to choose: **Do you want Oregon to have family farms, or not?**

Kyle Fessler  
Woodburn Nursery & Azaleas  
Woodburn, OR