

Dear Chair Barker,

I am writing today against HB 3031.

My name is Brenda Frketich and I'm a third generation farmer from St. Paul. I farm alongside my husband Matt and our three small children. We raise filberts, grass seed, wheat, clover, vegetables and vegetables seeds. I currently employ 4 year round employees, including myself and my husband. We also bring on seasonal labor, usually 4-6 people during harvest, for pruning and weeding fields. As a small business owner in Oregon I just can't go along with this bill. It is so over-reaching in both spending by employers (not just employee funded like other states' programs), amount of time granted, and also not allowing for any small business exemptions. It also doesn't address seasonal employees, which are very common in agriculture here in Oregon.

This will over burden our small businesses here in Oregon, I know it will definitely over burden our small farm. I'm a mom of three kids, I understand family time after you have a baby is important. But I also know the complex issue of running a business and this is not the way for those two to go hand in hand. As the owner and operator of our business I am also tasked with being the HR department, the payroll department, the operations department, safety officer, etc, etc, etc. All of those hats are already trying to juggle what the legislature has pushed on us in the past year. For example, increased minimum wage, paid sick leave law, retirement savings requirements, equal pay law...let's not add just one more layer to the already complex idea of doing business in Oregon.

If you want to support small businesses in this state, this is not how it's done! Please vote no on HB 3031.

Sincerely,

Brenda Frketich
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