

Chair and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to be considered against this bill. I am opposed to the legislature inserting themselves into what should be a matter to be resolved between employer and employee. I wonder if you would like to be the employer, or employee, for that matter, affected by this legislation? Would you want your representatives to involve themselves in your personal employment negotiation? Think carefully about the language of this bill: an employee may not be permitted or required to work...

What if the employee loves their job and loves the people with whom they work, or just wants to work extra hours during peak times (of which there are several in an agricultural production cycle)? This bill may rob him of his choice unless his employer can afford the extra expense.

This bill creates an authoritarian state which doesn't allow the employee to decide for himself the very basic questions about his own employment.

What if there are reasons, other than money, for the employee to choose to put in extra time during harvest (or other seasons), e.g. because there is flexibility in the schedule during quieter times of the year? There could be many reasons an employee might want to choose the extra hours of work, and the employer might have the extra hours to offer, yet this legislation removes any opportunity for individual circumstances to be considered.

In any particular case, there could be other aspects of the job or employer/employee relationship that make the job attractive, even if the hours are long at times.

I think the continual encroachment of public control into the private affairs of business is something we should be wary of and work to avoid for Oregon in the future. I appeal to your sense of reason and ask that you intentionally work to legislate in a manner that strengthens the businesses that employ Oregonians, especially small business and agri-business - that the futures of the businesses and the people they employ (and the state as a whole) will be brighter, rather than clouded by invasive and inappropriate external influences such as this proposed legislation.

Linda Barrett