



HB 4002: Oregon Employers Should Pay Their Own Overtime Costs

Committee on Business and Labor - Maureen Barnhart - 2.1.2022

Chair and members of the committee:

My name is Maureen Barnhart, on behalf of Tax Fairness Oregon, a network of volunteers who advocate for a rational and equitable tax code.

We do not disagree that farm workers are long overdue the same overtime protections as other laborers, and while we understand the urgency to move toward just working conditions for farm laborers, we question the need for six years of tax credits to achieve this goal. Tax credits that diminish inconsistently over that time, ultimately costing the General Fund \$120 million. In no other segment of the Oregon economy have employers been offered subsidies when changes in overtime were legislated for their work forces.

We question why the workweek maximums determined over those six years are not set at consistently diminishing numbers.

Legislation in neighboring Washington and California not only implements overtime more quickly (three and four years respectively), but does so without a tax credit for the employers.

In light of the ongoing racial justice reckoning HB 4002 is legislation that is understandable, but the subsidies are unacceptable.

We read the bills and follow the money