

Submitter: Jason Moore

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

I am writing to oppose HB 4002. My family grows and packs pears in Hood River Valley. I believe this bill will have a negative effect on take home wages to employees. It has already been proven in California. This bill will also negatively affect growers. For example, over the past year, there has been a 15% increase in material to pack a box of pears. As a packing house, I pass that cost increase along to the growers. The growers now have 15% less income from the previous season, they are price takers.

Lots of growers house their employees at no charge to the employee. If you consider what rent is in Hood River Valley, an average of \$1400.00/month for a 2-3 bedroom home, that is a nice benefit to have, along with not having to pay any utilities.

I feel that there is a compromise out there, but 40 hours is to low for agriculture. There should also be a harvest exemption. It is hard to deal with weather and trying to get the crop off in time and a good picker already can make upwards of \$40.00/hour.

Thank you for your time.