

Brooks Tree Farm, Inc
9785 Portland Road N.E.
Salem, OR 97305
503.393.6300 Phone
503.393.0827 Fax
office@brookstreefarm.com

RE House Committee on Business & Labor, HB 4003

Feb 7, 2022

The Honorable Representative Teresa Alonso Leon,

I am writing today in opposition to HB 4002. Ur farm family owns a wholesale seedling Nursery, providing restoration plants for streambanks and timber. We provide work to 35 people year around and for up 75 people during the winter.

We offer work starting at either 7:00 or 8:00 and offer Saturdays but allow our longtime employees to choose their own work hours. We encourage them to use Saturdays for family or other private time but make it available as an option, nearly year around. Our workers usually choose to work Saturdays.

We could take that option away and simply hire more people. But we would prefer to offer the choice.

We could pay overtime and simply raise our prices. The litany of other payroll expenses over the past few years have driven our costs up 50% in two years.

Those costs get passed on, driving up the price of trees for reforestation and streambank restoration. When prices rise, we see people save money by planting fewer plants in both types of projects.

If increasing the green load on our planet is truly a priority, then we should not be implementing policy making the plantings more costly and discouraging efforts.

If caring about our employees is a priority then restricting their options doesn't make sense.

We know there are rumors circulating that employees are required to work 80 hours a week. No true. If that is to be believed then require a punitive wage rate after 60 hours. But let our people have a chance at the work first.

Dave and Kathy LeCompte