

Submitter: Clinton Smay

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

Good afternoon fellow Oregonians,

First, I want to Thank You for your work towards making Oregon a better place for all! I need you to know that HB 4002 will add to the powerful headwinds that our farming families and economies are facing right now. The uncertainties and instability in both the costs and availability of critical crop inputs is extremely difficult to manage for our agribusiness ventures, and this will only compound those issues.

For decades our organization has held on to staff through the slow winter months, and even during the "great recession" so that we could provide for the families that depend on us. This also helped insure that we have the knowledgeable and hardworking people we need when conditions improve.

Our standard workweek is 42.5 hours a week, and during our peak harvest and shipping season, our Full-Time, year round staff will typically work at least 51 hours a week. This will all change immediately - and likely result in our employees net income being reduced. If this bill passes we will immediately reduce the workweek and reduce the amount of shipments that we can ship out in a week. It may also force us to bring in contract labor to work the Saturday work to avoid paying the inflated overtime hours.

Automation is important and will be dramatically accelerated in the event of this bill passing. There will be a reduction in payroll hours for the year and will likely make us pause any plans for expansion or continued investment. As you are aware the Nursery and Greenhouse industry of this state are important parts of many local economies in our state and I hope that we can remain competitive on a national level for generations to come.

Thanks for your consideration!

Clinton