

Submitter: Vicki Wares
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor
Measure: HB4002

This bill does not appear to consider the needs of the small farm/ranch owners. When my husband and I were operating a small sheep/cattle ranch and my son-in-law, a truck garden, our days were not 8-5 or even 5 days / week! Calves, lambs, and hay; also tomatoes, greens and garlic crops wait for no man's schedule. If we hadn't had the help of 1 or 2 wonderful employees from time to time we would not have been able to (financially) keep our farm. Our help worked with us, not for us, and they were treated as members of the family during their work days here. We ALL worked hard long days and side-by-side. We strove to pay them accordingly, minimum + wages, transportation and bonuses but we were constrained by the social value of our crops and the cost of producing and living.

I see HB 4002 as government seeking a quick, blanket fix to cover a complex and highly variable range of circumstances. HB 4002 is just more of the "best management practices" solution where the little guys, i.e. smaller, local ag producers, will AGAIN fall through the cracks.

Please do not vote for this unfair bill. There are more equitable ways to ensure fair labor practices for our good workers. Please search for an economically better way which will recognize the diverse needs of food ALL producers of quality food!!!

all