

Submitter: James Purvine

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

Anybody with ANY common sense is opposed to HB 4002. I want to know whose brilliant idea it was to try to drive a square peg into a round hole? Obviously, it was somebody who's never been closer to a farm or a ranch than what they can see from I5 doing 65 MPH. Ranches and farms don't have the luxury of eight-hour days and 40-hour weeks. Their existence is tied to organic, living products whose propagation has depended on sunshine and weather cycles since the beginning of time. The agricultural industry in Oregon has had an exemption to the overtime laws for 84 years. So, what's changed? The sun still shines during the day, wheat and berries still grow the way they used to. Beef cattle still graze in pastures like they always have, and cows still get milked. For the uninitiated, and some in this august group apparently are, just because the calendar says 2022 doesn't mean anything in the agriculture business has changed that would require a time clock to dictate a field hand's paycheck. Crops ripen and need harvesting at different rates – they don't stop growing when a whistle blows at 5:00 PM. Should any facet of the agriculture business be subject to the same overtime regulations as a car dealership or a manufacturing plant, I will guarantee that the price of everything you consume produced in this state will go up. Over the last year, the federal government has made policies that have resulted in the worst inflation in 40 years, which is undisputed. Passage of HB 4002 will amount to Salem piling on and making things worse for hard-working Oregonians.