

2-7-22

House Committee on Business & Labor

HB 4002

Dear Chair & Committee Persons

Thank you for accepting my testimony. My name is Dave Vanasche and I reside at 36130 NW Wren Rd, Cornelius, Oregon

I am opposed to HB 4002. My wife Ellen and myself own and operate Vanasche Farm LLC, which is a 2300 acre farm in Washington County. We grow grass seed, clover seed, wheat and hazelnuts. We have 4 full time employees and about 12 part-time seasonal workers. Our part time Latino workers are employed doing a lot of hand labor in our grass seed and hazelnut fields , during the non-harvest, Spring, Fall and winter months. They would prefer to work 40 hours or less per week, weather permitting ( can't be raining). They would most likely not be affected by HB 4002.

Our 4 full-time employees would be affected by overtime wages. Our peak season harvest and planting months are parts of June, July, August, September and October. Our crops are rain sensitive and must be harvested when they are ripe. 95% of our crops are planted in the fall with adequate moist and before winter sets in. This is another peak employee hour time. It's not uncommon for these employees to work 225-+ during several of these months. We also have several high school and college students working during these peak season months. Our full time employees usually work 1800-1900 hours per year, seldom working over 2000 hours per year. These employees receive \$23- \$30 per hour and a Simple IRA and vacation time. They are well compensated.

As your probably aware, farmers are price takers, competing with the entire world. We have no way to pass along the added cost to the consumer. We are not in a financial position to add over-time to our costs.

Inflation is running our farm into the financial red, with diesel fuel going from \$1.45 to \$3.42 per gal in 18 months and Nitrogen fertilizer (made from Natural Gas) from \$360 to \$830 per Ton in 1 year. Equipment, chemicals and all farm costs are going up rapidly!

No on HB 4002

Thank You For Your Consideration of This Issue

Dave Vanasche / Vanasche Farm LLC (est. 1896)

