

Submitter: Melissa Collman
On Behalf Of: All livestock growers
Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor
Measure: HB4002

I am a 4th generation dairy farmer. We are a small/medium size farm that resides where there are few other farms. We have 6-7 part time employees and 1 full time employee. This bill would hurt our business both financially and logistically. More importantly it would hurt our employees. Dairy is a 24/7, 365 day occupation. Our employees like the opportunity to make more money when we can give them more hours. We also have crop seasons. So some of our part time employees bank on making significantly more during those months. If this bill passes we will be forced to cut hours and either do the work ourselves or hire more part-time help. Employees are hard enough to come by, so having to add more to avoid paying OT for just our growing season is unreasonable. Or taking opportunities away from our current employees who want to make more money because we can't afford to pay them overtime is only hurting them. We will be forced to just take on those extra hours or jobs ourselves and we are already spread thin. Rising costs in a profession that has zero say on what we get paid for our product on top of having living animals who need constant care and depend on us should help you make the decision to make livestock growers exempt from this ruling. In the 98 years my family's farm has been in business we have only ever missed one milking. That is twice a day, everyday for 98years. This lifestyle isn't for everyone but we nonetheless beg you to reconsider placing a bill like this on us. We are vital to our community. We host roughly 500 kids a year so we can teach kids where their food comes from. We lease animals to about a dozen kids in our community who wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to be in 4H and learn those responsibilities. We hire students and give them their first work experience helping them form skills for later on in life. We sit on local boards and committees. We are NEEDED in our community. With all the constraints we have on us already this might be the final blow. Please consider this in your decision on HB4002. Thank you!