

Submitter: John Zielinski

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

I grow pears, hazelnuts, apples and peaches in Marion County and employ 45-50 employees at peak season, 10-12 of whom work year-round on my operation. The impact of an ag overtime mandate on my operation and employees will change my operation dramatically.

An ag overtime mandate would immediately shutter sectors of Oregon agriculture. Specialty crops that Oregon is known for would be gone, they would not be profitable to raise. Our employees are not in favor of ag overtime. They know that we would need to reduce their hours to 40 hours per week. Our starting wage is 20% higher than the state mandated minimum wage, and 107% higher than the federal minimum wage. The addition of mandated overtime would cause our operation to not be viable with the current crops we are growing. Other farmers will be in the same predicament, it will cause a massive shift in acreage to less labor intensive crops, which would likely lead to overproduction of those crops.

Please oppose a 40-hour overtime mandate for Oregon agriculture. It won't work for Oregon's Agricultural Economy.