

# Rick's Roadrunner Inc.

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To Whom It May Concern:

My wife and I own and operate an agricultural business in the grass straw industry here in the Willamette Valley, and have since the early 80's. We are also native Oregonians.

Every year we spend a lot of time, energy, and advertising money, looking for responsible energetic people to help with our "*very short seasonal harvest*". Some might think we have all summer to get the grass straw into storage, but every time it rains it loses value. The majority of our *seasonal* employees we have hired over the years have been college students. They want as many hours as they possibly can receive to continue their education with as little debt as possible.

This bill if passed would cause us to limit their hours not to mention the logistical nightmare of trying to find, hire, and train more employees. We travel from field to field; we would have more difficulties in shift changes as well as transportation issues with regard to the vast areas we need to cover from Eugene to McMinnville.

We know from history the farming industry is the first to take a hit in an economic slowdown and the last to recover. During the Pandemic Period, we were the first to experience container shortages as most of our products are exported, and to this date, no one knows when this situation will right itself. In the meantime, not only have our freight rates doubled, our other products to operate have also increased in cost from inflation including taxes and employee benefits.

I trust you will consider this Bill HB 4002 carefully, farming built this nation, feeds this nation, employees this nation, and continues too.

Respectfully,

Rick Phelan  
Rick's Roadrunner Inc.