

Submitter: Lawrence Duyck

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

I farm in Washington County. We grow Kotata blackberries, blueberries, grass seed and rotate wheat, clover and other seed crops. We employ about 35 part time employees seasonally each year, many of whom come back to our farm year after year.

I am concerned about the impact that HB 4002, the ag overtime proposal, would have on my farm and employees. I do everything I can to compensate employees fairly, but as a farmer, I am a price taker. This means that I cannot increase the sale price of my crops when labor costs increase.

In the past 7 years, the minimum wage has gone from \$9.25 to \$13.50 per hour and at the present inflation rate it may go up \$1 per hour per year.

Consumers in the global commodity market set our prices. Any added costs will have to be absorbed by my family's farm. That's the economic reality for those of us in agriculture.

Oregon's specialty crops are labor intensive and have peak seasonal needs, including harvesting, pruning, and planting. This bill will likely cost me thousands in new labor costs that I can't afford. To remain in business, I will be forced to limit the number of hours that employees work to 40 hours per week, mechanize further, sacrifice the quality of our fruit or transition to less labor-intensive crops to avoid the added expense of overtime pay. I do not want to do this, but that is the practical reality.

As someone who stands to lose their family business, I urge you to oppose an overtime mandate at 40-hours in HB 4002.