

Submitter: Karen Samek

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

I oppose House bill 4002. I would urge you to consider a livestock exemption at a minimum. This bill would devastate an already strained food supply chain. The number of small dairy and livestock farms in Oregon are continuing to decrease and this would just be another blow. The elimination of the agriculture overtime exemption in our neighboring state of Washington has been a "lose-lose" for dairy farmer owners and workers alike. I work in the dairy industry in Oregon and Washington, so I have heard this from workers and owners. This is a 24 hour a day business which includes tending to live animals that are eating, birthing, and milking. This type of business makes scheduling unique. Many shifts are not based on a 7-day work week but on a rotating set of days on and then set days off.

Workers in Washington have been displeased with reduced hours and/or less days off and fewer hours during regular work days.

Please consider the viability of your locally sourced food before voting for this bill.