

Submitter: Crystal Krahmer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

The point of passing this bill is to help farm workers make more money, but that is the exact opposite of what this bill will accomplish. There have already been testimonies from workers in California and Washington saying that they are now making less money than they were before Ag Overtime went into effect. The reason behind this is that farmers do not have the funds available to pay their workers this amount of overtime. Farming is a very different type of organization. Farmers cannot just raise their prices in order to compensate for needing to pay their workers more. The consumers set farming prices and most farmers do not know how much they will even make on their crop before sending it off. What other industry do you know where they send off their good before knowing what they will be paid for it? None! Farming is just different and because of that it needs to be treated differently. Corporations and other businesses can handle overtime hours, but farming is not an area that will survive this. This bill will put many farms out of business and then all that has been accomplished is making it so the people that were trying to be helped are now unemployed. This bill isn't the way. It's not going to work the way it is expected to. We are seeing this already in the states that have done it. It is not working! Please listen to the farmers and work with them to come to a solution for everyone. This solution doesn't benefit the workers or the farmers. But working together to come up with something that will could in turn lead to a new bill that could benefit everyone.