

Submitter: Tim Kuenzi

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

As an Oregon dairy farmer and small business owner I would like to state my opposition to HB 4002.

The basis for my opposition comes from the economic harm that will come to those that have been employed by us for many years. These employees are competent, highly skilled professionals that for a variety of reasons have made careers out of dairy farming. Any of them could easily be employed in the construction, transportation or manufacturing sectors that offer a forty hour work week but they have stayed and labored beside us. They have stated that they have enjoyed and benefited from having their children in the same school district and community from K-12. It has been great to see their kids graduate from college, excel in the military, or work on the front lines of health care.

HB 4002 has the potential to erode the economic foundation of our employees of stable work, housing and community. It limits their earning capacity and will disrupt the stable housing provided by the farms where they are employed. The 24/7 life we live as dairy farmers carefully caring for cattle and crops is a great place to raise a family but doesn't fit neatly in a 40hr week. Our employees continue to choose dairy farming as a career while enjoying the benefits of a rural life.