

Submitter: Megan Thompson
On Behalf Of: Cascade Cherry Growers
Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor
Measure: HB4002

I represent more than 20 growers in the Mid Columbia/The Dalles. This legislation will not only affect my grower members but also the dedicated workers. All of the growers I represent are small family owned operations and the workers they employ are just an extended part of their family. Cherries are a highly perishable crop. When it is time to pick them, pack, and ship time is of the essence. We use very skilled dedicated labor that returns harvest after harvest to work alongside our growers to harvest the crop. They are provided seasonal housing at no charge, paid by piece rate, so the harder and more productive they are the more they make, and they do very well. Overtime will be Since cherries are picked, packed and sold growers are at the mercy of the market at that time of the season as well as the weather to get the crop harvested. Overtime requirements should allow a seasonality provision when weather, harvest windows, and the needs of crops dictate longer or unpredictable hours;

- Employers who pay workers a fair salary and provide other compensation like insurance costs, housing and other benefits should be given an exemption from hourly thresholds;