



February 9, 2022
Senate Committee on Business and Labor
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 4002

Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee,

My Name is Ron Weiss and I am a cattle producer in Lane County. I am writing in favor of including an exemption for the livestock industry regarding the Ag Overtime issue in HB 4002. Without the livestock exemption, HB 4002 will mean lost hours for Oregon workers when they need it the most.

Ranchers are unable to set the price for the cattle they raise to account for Oregon labor cost increases. The economics of agriculture provide no other option except reducing labor to control costs, including investing in machines to harvest crops; reducing worker hours to avoid accruing overtime; hiring a second shift to avoid accruing overtime; and moving operations outside of Oregon.

Without a livestock exemption to HB 4009 my business will be severely impacted, and I will not be able to continue to compensate the workers I employ at my current rate of compensation. Livestock operations have unique needs and any policy changes should continue to recognize the challenges for producers and the workforce. Cows, sheep and other livestock rely on 24-hour supervision and response, requiring a flexible workforce year-round. During calving or lambing seasons, immediate care, regardless of time of day is essential.

Please protect Oregon livestock workers and include a livestock exemption in HB 4002.

Thank you,

Ron Weiss
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