

Submitter: Sabrina Maki

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

As an employee for a business centered around agriculture I strongly oppose this bill. There are careers that you sign up for that have different "norms". The ag world is one of those careers - there is a time and a season for aggressive work schedules. There are only so many days of harvest + good weather conditions and those can be long days but then those days are over. This mandate of 40 hour work weeks will cripple the ag industry in Oregon. Producers are already at the mercy of market conditions - not having a say in how much their hay is worth or how much their calves will sell for... they can't control fuel prices or the rising costs of parts or the weather - and you better believe that the droughts the east side of the state has been facing has had a HUGE economic impact. Inflation and taxation are hitting them at every turn. The costs just keeps going up and their margin just keeps going down. I believe this is another cost that will be out of their control and will decrease their margin even further - or eventually start putting small farmers/ranchers completely out of business. Labor is hard to find under the best of conditions, now you're going to price us out of the labor we have. This will be detrimental to family run operations. These aren't forced labor conditions - the people that work in this industry know what they are signing up for. They understand the value of a hard days work and that the harvest comes to an end. Please stop trying to ruin this way of life. Also rising labor costs = rising product costs. So who really benefits? That worker might make more during the season but that year round job just became seasonal because you can't afford a year round employee anymore. And as a consumer the products they buy are now costing more money... So who comes out ahead? Not the farmer or the employee...