

I am sending this letter on behalf of our customers and the communities we serve to let you know we respectfully oppose House Bill 4002. The farming and ranching community and those who make their living from the land have always had a unique work environment that is drastically affected by weather, commodity pricing and other factors that are, to a high degree, out of the farmer's control.

We believe that the farmers who put food on our tables will be priced out of the labor market because they are unable to adopt to a 40-hour threshold. Farmers, ranchers, and their employees will be being pressured into the choice of capping hours because overtime is an unaffordable expense in their unique work environment. Meaning everyone who depends on the farms and ranches in Oregon for income will suffer and have less money in their pockets.

We feel it's important to craft an Oregon-solution that addresses the uniqueness of our agricultural community. Quite frankly, this bill has us concerned about the future of family-owned farms and ranches throughout our state. At Coastal, we feel a compromise that weighs the benefits of the current system with any damaging effects from the proposal outlined in HB 4002 would be beneficial to all parties. We want to see our family farmers and ranchers thrive, as they are the very lifeblood of feeding America.

Sincerely,

Lori McKinnon
CEO / President
Coastal Farm & Ranch