

Submitter: Duane Olson
On Behalf Of: Bad for farmers bad for workers
Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor
Measure: HB4002

Dear Legislators,

My name is Duane Olson and I am a farmer in your district. I oppose HB 4002 its bad for framers and it is bad for agriculture workers. By imposing a requirement to pay agriculture workers over time you will be imposing the views and wishes of others in the labor union and others from the states surrounding us such as California and Washington. These states are different from us and we should be able to make informed decisions for what is best for our state. We should not have a follow the crowd mentality that will end with our workers losing their jobs.

If HB 4002 passes I will not be able to pay my workers overtime during my harvest season which is a narrow window here in our state; this is especially true in the valley. If you know anything about growing vegetables you know that they must be harvested as soon and as fast as possible to have a marketable product. If you do not know anything about farming practices, I invite you to come join me during either planting or harvesting season so you can see firsthand how government policies effect our day-to-day operations.

If this bill passes then I will be forced to shorten how much I can grow and harvest, this will lead to lower acreage planted causing higher prices and layoffs. How can you say that this bill is for the workers when they will no longer be working or working less hours than they had in the past?

I encourage you to stop looking at the states around you and look to your back yard, come tour a farm and talk to some of the workers not just some labor union lobbyist.

Thank you for time.

Sincerely,

Duane Olson Farms