

## HB-4002 Testimony

02/09/2022

I would like to voice my objection to HB-4002, the Agriculture Overtime bill that was heard yesterday, Feb 8, 2022 in the House Business and Labor Committee.

This bill ignores the needs of Oregon farmers and the seasonality of the agriculture industry. You can't fit the structure of agriculture into a 4-hour box. We need to work for something more realistic. This is a very complex issue. You can hear the intense emotion on both sides, indicating the weight of this decision needs careful thought, and should not be rushed to judgement.

Pushing this bill through would create more issues for Oregon farmers and agriculture than it would solve. There could be serious unintended consequences without thoughtful negotiation between those impacted by this legislation. Creating an overtime structure won't likely offer farm workers better pay, but instead may cap the hours they can work, resulting in less hours and income. Farms will need to shift to mechanization and less labor-intensive crops leading to increased prices on goods we are no longer able to produce locally. Oregon has some of the most diverse agriculture in the country, and this will seriously cut the number of crops produced here in the state.

My concern is that the consequences of this Bill have not been fully considered and will absolutely harm small family farms and the very employees that this bill is supposed to help. Please understand that this will ultimately harm Oregon's agricultural economy and Oregon's economy as a whole.

Thank you,

Christine Goodwin