

Submitter: Blake Nelson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

Bountiful Farms is a third generation family owned farm that began as a hazelnut operation in the early 1970's. Early in the 1980's, my grandfather and father began growing nursery stock, and over the years we have transitioned to exclusively producing nursery material. Many of our employees have worked at Bountiful Farms for years; several in particular have been with us for over 30 years and have become part of our family.

We have made a practice of paying our employees not only competitive, but generous wages. Our employees regularly request as many hours as we can give them, and have become accustomed to living a lifestyle supported by these wages. We fear that if the mandatory overtime laws passed, we would not be able to afford to pay overtime at current wages, and would therefore have to limit the number of hours we can offer. Obviously this would result in reduced paychecks which would hurt our employees and their dependent families.

In addition, if forced to limit overtime hours, we would need more employees to operate. In a market where finding employees is already difficult we would be forced to limit our production and possibly look for crops that required fewer employees. We support our employees and find this bill would be devastating to the agriculture market in the state of Oregon.