

Submitter: Steve Koch

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

What often gets lost when considering a proposal like this Bill are the unintended consequences. It is easy to forget that we live in a temperment climate where someone needs to prepare for winter. Our ancestors understood this clearly as a matter of survival. Today that role is filled by farmers, processors, distributors, and others who are responsible for the food supply chain. The labor to perform these tasks must be available when needed or the production opportunity is lost. While this proposal may sound good to many on the surface it will impact agriculture, which is the production base of the food supply chain. An overtime Bill will be unaffordable and necessarily reduce available labor at a time when labor is already in short supply. The work must get done on a timely basis during the growing season when no two days are alike. Agriculture provides an employment opportunity that is unique in the economy and must be respected for what it is.