

Submitter: Joe Spendolini  
On Behalf Of: Government Affairs Committee  
Committee: Joint Committee On Farm Worker Overtime  
Measure: HB4002

Joint Committee On Farm Worker Overtime  
Co-Chairs Taylor and Holvey and Members of the Committee  
Testimony in opposition to HB 4002A

Co-Chairs Taylor and Holvey and Committee Members,

My name is Joe Spendolini. Among other things, I serve as the Chairman of the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee. For your consideration I respectfully offer this testimony in opposition to HB 4002A.

I understand the reasoning and what the Bill is attempting to achieve, but if passed, the result may actually lower the income of these workers instead of increasing it. In response, should this bill pass, farmers and ranchers may have to cut the hours of their workers to avoid overtime costs, thereby reducing their take-home pay.

I think it's important to mention that the agricultural industries, farmers and ranchers, function on very narrow margins. Any increase in costs could wipe out their ability to pay their bills, remain competitive with producers and growers in other states and countries, and harm their ability to maintain profitability. But as their costs increase, they will be forced to increase what they charge for the food they produce.

With December's and January's Consumer Price Index (CPI) at just under 8%, we Oregonians must spend a lot more today on basic necessities like food. This Bill will result in increases to the food we all buy, on top of the very high inflation we are already experiencing on everything else we purchase. Those that are harmed most are those that can afford these increases the least; our unemployed, working poor, and elderly.

To avoid redundant testimony, the reasons for our objections to the passage of this Bill are clearly laid out in the testimony submitted by the Oregon Farm Bureau.

I respectfully request that you vote no on HB 4002A.

Respectfully,

Joe Spendolini  
Chairman, Klamath County Chamber of Commerce

Government Affairs Committee