

Submitter: Linda Anspach

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Farm Worker Overtime

Measure: HB4002

I would like to voice my opposition to this bill. We livestock producers are teetering on the brink of collapse already. Since buying our ranch in 2013, minimum wage has gone from 9.15/hr to 13.50/hr in 2021. That is a nearly 50 percent increase in labor cost. For our operation, labor comprises about 35-40 percent of our gross revenue. Add on the effect of the current drought... we averaged about \$165/ton for hay last year (combination of grass hays and alfalfa). This year hay prices are 300-400/ton. When I sell live cattle at auction, I'm getting the exact same price per pound that I was in 2013. Grain prices were \$200/ton in June 2021 and I now pay \$300-\$400/ton. If you have any desire to keep food producers from going belly up, you need to reconsider what you're doing. I urge you to remove this poorly considered bill. Everyone has to eat and the vast majority of the population doesn't produce food. More of us throw in the towel every year. You might see so much effect on the grocery store shelves now, but be forewarned, those covid meat shortages, they'll be back.