

My name is Tony Bennett I am a farmer here in the Willamette Valley with my brother Ryan Bennett. We oppose House bill 4002.

Currently agriculture is exempt from overtime. This is because our time in the field varies depending on the crop and the weather. This especially true here in the valley where our planting and harvesting time may be limited. My employees know this as and they depend on the additional hours that they work during these busy time frames. As it stands today during planting and harvesting time my employees may work an additional 20 hours per week. This is additional income that they rely on. This income will be taken away from them with the passage of HB 4002.

This will lead to a minimum income loss of \$6,600 per employee. This will make it hard to retain well trained employees for our food supply. Our workers understand that agriculture is not a nine to five Monday through Friday job, they also understand the importance of good quality food which I feel will be compromised if this bill should pass.

Farmers and ranchers will have to mechanize operations, transition to less labor-intensive crops, or even move outside of Oregon to stay in business. Which means less money for Oregon. How can you promise us tax credits when there will be less money? Not to mention the fact that these credits are temporary while the law is permanent. So in three years we not receive any credit and still have to pay overtime on even higher wages with no guarantee of a higher price for our product.

I know it's not the goal of these bills to reduce employee take-home pay, but HB 4002 demands wages that are not possible with the economics of agriculture and will result in reduced pay and hours for farm employees.

I am very concerned that this policy hasn't been well-vetted and will actually harm those it intends to help, as well as, increase the cost of food further and make Oregon less competitive in a world market.

Please oppose HB 4002 this session. This bill would negatively impact not only family farmers and ranchers in Oregon, but also agricultural workers!

Still farming for now.

Tony and Ryan Bennett