

Submitter: Kurt Mizee

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Farm Worker Overtime

Measure: HB4002

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing as a 4th Generation Dairyman to oppose HB 4002. The nature of our business is very different from most others and we operate on very thin margins. This bill would be detrimental to our already difficult task of maintaining the relatively low cost, high-quality food supply chain enjoyed by Americans and Oregonians specifically. I won't make this long as you all have a tremendous amount to cover. I have seen first hand the disastrous effects of this type of legislation in Washington. The very people it was meant to help it ends up hurting. Most notably agriculture workers. Currently, workers are allowed to work more hours and gather additional compensation. What has happened in Washington is these workers lose hours because the extra cost of employing someone at an overtime rate isn't feasible. Therefore, operators end up hiring additional people to work within the straight rate constraints. Additionally, the added costs that are inevitable will get added to the cost of food products which hurt the most vulnerable population most. Neither of these outcomes are equitable to those who need our help most.

Thank you for you time,  
Kurt