

Submitter: Cynthia Kortge
On Behalf Of: Oppose HB 4002
Committee: Joint Committee On Farm Worker Overtime
Measure: HB4002

We are very concerned about HB 4002A-Ag Overtime and the negative impact this legislation will have on our operation and the entire Agricultural community in the State of Oregon. We have been farming wheat on the breaks of the Dechutes river in Wasco County for 5 generations and also own and operate a cherry orchard. Both of these operations are labor intensive during the cycles of the planting season and especially during peak harvest. We don't have the luxury to follow a standard work week schedule, crops must be planted and cared for when the conditions are right, it doesn't matter if we have birthday celebrations or graduations to attend, it doesn't matter that it is Sunday morning or Saturday night and we have plans. Many factors are in play each growing season that we have absolutely no control over, the crops and the weather dictate the hours that we need to work to have a successful harvest, and more often then not, reaching the end of the season with the exact right weather conditions at the exact right time is impossible. Adding more rules and restrictions will not only result in the closure of more family farms in Oregon, it will devastate our already fragile economy still trying to recover from the pandemic. Tax credits are not a workable or durable solution to overtime for any producers and we urge you to listen to family farmers and ranchers and help us find more realistic solutions so we can continue to grow the crops that feed the world.