

Date: 02/09/2022

To: House Committee on Business & Labor

From: Brittany Santucci – Santucci Ranch & Turf

RE: Oppose HB 4002

My name is Brittany Santucci, I own and operate Santucci Ranch & Turf in Prineville, Oregon alongside my husband, mother in-law, father in-law and our employees. I am writing regarding the HB 4002 and to express my sincere opposition to agriculture over time. In this industry we do not set the hours for our employees or ourselves. Our hours are determined by the weather, water, livestock, and many other factors. During the winter months we are slower, but hours still vary due to our livestock and their needs during calving season, as well as having to feed throughout these months. During the spring, summer, and usually into the fall we are the busiest. Between farming and harvesting our turf, hay, and other crops, irrigating, tending to our livestock, etc. Our employees work longer hours in the busy months so they can support themselves and their families in the slower months without having to look for other employment opportunities during those months.

One thing that I believe is not being understood is that the agriculture industry is a very diverse industry and cannot be shoved into a one size fits all box. Some jobs take longer than others, we all work until the job is done. You cannot compare a nursery or orchard to a ranch and expect them essentially be the same thing, and operate the exact same.

Not only will this affect us in the agriculture industry, but the members of communities across the state. Enforcing over time could cause a cut back on our hours it will cause a decrease in production which means a decrease in the quantity of products farmer and rancher's supply. A decrease in the quantity would then cause an increase in the price of the product produced, meaning consumers will have to pay an increased price for the products they purchase. Over the past couple of years our water supply has decreased tremendously due to drought, already causing a struggle the agriculture community. We feel that we already have enough working against us with the factors that we cannot control.

There are a lot of costs and factors that I believe are not being considered in the creation of this bill. These include the size of the farm or ranch, the number of employees needed to operate efficiently, the cost of equipment, the cost to maintain and repair the equipment, fertilizer to ensure the crops are to their best quality; which had an increase of 200% in the last year; vaccines, wormer, and other medication for the livestock, etc.

We also do not get to determine the price that we sell our goods for, the agriculture markets, especially the international market does. So, when you expect us to pay thousands of extra dollars a year on overtime, and the markets are low how do you expect us to survive.

We are not California, and agriculture overtime clearly had to opposite effect in California considering agriculture employees are starting to leave California and moving up here looking for higher pay, because agriculture overtime ended up decreasing their income from where it was before agriculture overtime.

I strongly encourage the right thing to be done and the choice to protect the agriculture industry is protected from HB 4002 and the negative affects it will cause.

Sincerely,
Brittany Santucci
Prineville,OR