

Date: 2/9/22

To: House Committee on Business & Labor

From: Pat Goehring

RE: Oppose HB 4002

My name is Pat Goehring and I am the father of two employees who work at Santucci Ranch & Turf in Prineville, Oregon. I am writing you today to express my sincere opposition of HB 4002 on ag overtime. As a ranch worker it is impossible to regulate hours worked due to the nature of the business. They have no control over the following factors weather, water, livestock, and other factors that affect their hours. They work longer hours in the spring and summer as we farm and harvest, their schedules are determined by the weather and elements not by us. They have a job to do and they do what it takes to get it done, meaning some weeks we may work longer hours than others. The longer hours they work in the spring and summer time provide enough income to support themselves in the winter when the hours at times are below 20 hours a week. It all balances out.

By enforcing overtime, you will be causing employers such as mine to cap our hours at 40 or less per week. This loss of income will cause myself and our other ranch hands to either get a second job to supplement income or even leave the ranch to find new employment.

The financial burden of this bill will not stop at the ranch, it will trickle into communities all over the state. They will be forced to cut back on production, reducing supply causing higher prices for consumers. Farmers and Ranchers are already struggling due to drought and inflation, I feel they already have enough working against them.

Please do the right thing and protect our agriculture communities from the devastation this bill would bring. Please kill this bill before it goes to the floor.

Sincerely,
Pat Goehring
Prineville, OR