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To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is to urge the adoption of the alternative to House Bill 4002 by State Representative Shelley Boshart Davis.

The current bill in the form of HB 4002A is unworkable for many Oregonians. Ranchers and Farmers across the state have been clear about the consequences of this policy. Agricultural workers will be negatively impacted, and many will see their pay go down if overtime is required after 40 hours.

Only seven states have adopted agricultural overtime policies, and most have crafted policies to ensure some measure of flexibility to ensure that local farms can remain viable, and that employees' jobs and paychecks are protected. Several states have adopted policies to meet seasonal needs and others established higher overtime thresholds that help avoid some of the worst consequences. Failure to provide flexibility that acknowledges the needs for agricultural production risks the sustainability of thousands of family farms, ranches, and crop production and places farmworkers at a disadvantage, having the opposite effect of what is intended.

The committee has a choice on agricultural overtime and House Bill 4002. Only one version will help both farmers and farmworkers, and that is the alternative introduced by State Rep. Shelley Boshart Davis.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments on behalf of Oregon's farmers and ranchers.

Sincerely,

William N. Wise

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Oregon Beef Council