

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 1,2022

Chief Clerk Sekerak
Oregon State Capitol

RE: Vote explanation for HB 4002 (B-Engrossed)

Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I wish to submit the following explanation for my vote on HB 4002 (B-Engrossed).

HB 4002(B-Engrossed) establishes maximum hours employers may require of agricultural workers prior to compensating additional hours as overtime. Specifies maximum hours as: for calendar years 2023 and 2024, 55 hours per workweek, for calendar years 2025 and 2026, 48 hours per workweek, and for calendar year 2027 and thereafter, 40 hours per workweek.

This bill passed on a party line vote and is indicative of the will of the super majority. Despite a year long workgroup, they were not willing to find compromise and dictated yet another policy that is bad for agriculture and all Oregonians.

This bill will only harm the workers that the supporters of the bill said it was designed to help. Farms cannot afford the overtime costs associated with this bill and will cut workers hours, cut positions, and automate additional processes eliminating jobs permanently.

The supporters offered partial tax credits to specific classifications of farmers, by size, but the tax credits will take years to get, if they are received at all.

This bill is just another partisan bill that will prove over time to be bad policy and bad for Oregonians. I was happy to vote no.

Regards,

Anna