

My name is Logan Skeen, and I farm in Nyssa, Malheur County, OR. I graduated from Utah State University in 2012 and returned back to the family farm operation to work with my dad. We raise 8 different crops on about 1400 acres and employ 28 people throughout our season. HB2358 would be the most aggressive overtime policy in the country, and it will be devastating for our farming families who are already struggling financially. As a farmer, I cannot simply increase the price of my crops to make up for added labor costs. Consumers set our prices and they will buy from other states or countries that can sell at a cheaper price. I will have to absorb the added overhead. Oregon already has one of the highest minimum wages in the nation, and all our employees currently make more than minimum wage. We are already paying more than most of our competition. To stay in business, I will be forced to limit the number of hours worked by our employees to 40 hours to avoid the added expense of overtime pay. I do not want to do this, and our employees do not want me to be forced into doing this, because they understand what the consequences will be for them. Right now our employees can live a good life here in Malheur County with their current wages. Our cost of living is much less than other areas. My employees are loyal, hardworking and have been with me for a long time. We will be forced to mechanize operations, transition to less labor-intensive crops, and even downsize to stay in business. I will be forced to let good employees go. HB2358 will demand wages that are not possible with the economics of agriculture. As a family business we cannot operate at a loss year after year, so we must try to control our costs that seem to increase every year in Oregon. Not only are you trying to hit us with this bill, but you are now also trying to put a tax on off-road diesel and off-road tires which will add additional expense to every piece of farm equipment we own. You are killing agriculture in Oregon! Please oppose HB2358 this session. This bill will negatively impact family farmers and ranchers, but also our wonderful agricultural workers.