

Mr. Chair and Members of the House Committee on Business and Labor,
I would like to testify that as a rancher in Oregon, I would be under duress to pay overtime to our employees, especially with minimum wages being increased year after year. We don't receive any more for our products (grain and cattle) than we were able to get in the 1950's or 60's. I would imagine your wages have increased dramatically since then. The cost of everything has gone up exponentially including the cost of tractors and combines and balers, none of which I am sure you have priced lately! But surely you know how the cost of automobiles and homes has gone up. When you add to that the necessity of hiring seasonal workers, you should be able to see that we cannot keep our bottom line out of the red if forced to pay strict overtime. If this bill passes, we will be forced to shorten the hours of workers, lessening their pay, and hiring other part time workers, if available. This can also lead to disruption to workers' places of employment as they shift from farm to farm, causing less hours of work time. I would request that this bill be tabled, especially at this time with the pandemic causing upheavals in everyone's employment.
Thank you, Connie Dunham