

To whom it may concern,

My name is Dan Corn, I'm 35 years old, and Melissa (my wife) own and operate a shallot and specialty onion farm in Nyssa Oregon. We are a family farm, with Melissa and myself, being the only owners. This is not a multi- generational corporation, we started this farm on our own in 2005. After 16 years, our farm, Arcadia Valley Farms LLC, now employs approximately 10 full time workers, and our packing area employs another 10 workers. We love Oregon, and love agriculture and need to stay in business.

I am writing this in regards to HB 2358, for agricultural overtime pay, which I am opposed to. The main reason for my opposition is the seasonal nature of our business. During planting and harvest we work more than 40 hrs and against mother nature to provide food to our customers. We are proud of that work, but cannot, in a meaningful way reduce the seasonal nature of our high hour times.

An important detail about our business is that we rarely pay anybody just minimum wage. We are above that wage rate, because we value our employees.

We can not afford 1.5x our wage rate during harvest, planting etc. If HB 2358 were passed, we would be forced to lower all our employees base pay, to minimum wage in an effort to pay overtime. In the end our employees would lose. Growing food, that is healthy and economical for the public, is not a high margin venture!

As I've considered the implications of this bill I've thought about the effects on our employees. I've concluded that on an individual employee basis, our people would make less take home salary than they are now. And the biggest losses would come to the lowest skilled, lowest paid employees.

For the sake of our business and employees, Agriculture needs to be overtime pay exempt. We are not a factory with a production schedule and a roof over our head. We deal with many variables to keep healthy, affordable food on the tables of our citizens. In the end this is a competitive world, and if we can't compete we will be forced to close. Since I live very near the Idaho border, I've already seen firsthand the effect of business migration which hurts our communities.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely  
Dan Corn