

Chair Holvey and members of the committee,

As the capitol is closed and not open for the people's business, I offer this written testimony instead.

I am a farmer in Independence, Oregon. I urge you to oppose HB2358 and all amendments thereof. Yes, this bill would directly effect my farm by requiring me to pay workers overtime wages. Just like the minimum wage increases require me to pay workers more per hour each year. I operate a labor-intensive farm raising blueberries and raspberries. You have already increased my labor costs by 40% with minimum wage increases. HB 2358 now wants to pile on overtime wages on crops that are labor and time sensitive during harvest. My alternative to avoid these increased labor costs is to shut down my farm and employ no labor, which is detrimental to those same employees this bill is aiming to help.

Representatives, I urge you to oppose this legislation. Perhaps you should focus on a budget and then go home. In case you hadn't heard, there is an emergency in place and the capital is closed. You shouldn't be there to start with.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Calef