

Thank you for the opportunity to add our voice to the opposition to instituting an overtime provision to 40hour threshold for agriculture. We operate a 160 acre fresh market vegetable production entity serving large grocery operations in Oregon/Washington/Idaho, with over 25 employees [20 seasonally April-Dec.] As the domestic farm labor supply has dwindled over past years to the point where participation in the Fed. Govt. H2A visa program is absolutely an imperative to survive as viable producers-we have endured [so far], very large wage costs increases due to the AEW [adverse effect wage rate] inflation. Rates in 2019 were \$15.03 and just now announced to reach \$16.34 for 2021! In our type of operations the work week average generally 40 hrs.early [April-May] to over 60 hrs. in mid-summer till late Nov. The domestic workforce must be compensated at least the same as visa workers for any work deemed somewhat similar. As all visa workers must also receive free OSHA-inspected housing as part of the pay package, it should now be obviously a situation that certainly needs no augmentation via a overtime provision to represent a basic struggle for farmers to survive financially. Farmers are price-takers generally, and as such ,strive mightily to serve the consuming public in an occupation where we are important long-term players. The overtime provisions in HB2358 will cut hours for many to the absolute minimum, cut number of available jobs in some instances, is just too big a bite to take at this time. I firmly believe that over reasonable time, the minimum farm wage levels will continue to rise, as they have since the popularity of the H2A program guest worker has risen. At end of 2020, our visa workers average take home PAY was \$22--24,000 for the time period end April-end Nov.