

My name is Emery Gentry. I am a 4th generation farmer, however I started my operation completely on my own when I was 25 years old. I will be turning 30 next month. I farm in the Athena and Weston areas of Eastern Oregon where I raise dryland winter wheat and spring barley. HB 2358 and SB 616 are very concerning to me. I do most of the farm work by myself, however during harvest and other busy times I do need to hire some labor. Paying employees overtime just is not feasible to me. I look around to my neighbors who have larger operations and require more labor and it further solidifies my concern over paying overtime for seasonal ag workers. We cannot simply raise the price of our commodities to adjust for increased labor costs. Typically the pool of labor we draw from are young individuals saving up or working part time jobs for college and other people who are just in need of some seasonal work. Especially in the recent events of COVID 19, there are many people who are frustrated and want to go out and put in an honest day's work and feel a sense of accomplishment rather than sitting around at home. Requiring overtime pay for ag worker's just means that producers such as myself and others would be forced to reduce their seasonal workforce which reduces the number of seasonal jobs in our small, rural communities.