



GOLD FAMILY FARMS, INC.

*WHERE QUALITY AND VALUE MEETS THE EXTRAORDINARY*

March 8, 2021

To: State Representative Susan McClain and Senator Chuck Riley

From: Joe & Steven Gold, Gold Family Farms, Inc.

RE: House Bill 2358 / Senate Bill 616 – Agricultural Overtime

Greetings, Representative McClain and Senator Riley;

Our business is Gold Family Farms, Inc.. We live in Hillsboro and our business has been part of the Hillsboro Community for over 50 years and we urge you to oppose House Bill 2358 and Senate Bill 616.

House Bill 2358 and Senate Bill 616 will harm our ability to continue to keep our staff employed year round, and will ultimately reduce benefits and total compensation for our employees. We have already made conscious choices to pay a minimum of \$15 per hour starting wage for unskilled laborers and pay competitively higher rates for skilled workers. We also make a responsible choice to pay 100% of each employee's health and dental insurance coverage, because a healthy employee is a productive and happy employee, we pay 5% matching 401K and paid over \$150K in bonuses to our production staff in 2020 alone. In our truly green industry our crops rely on Oregon's temperate climate to make it a coveted commodity throughout the United States and Canada. Yet we compete against these same states with far lower minimum wage, fewer benefits and being thousands of miles away we then have the added cost of shipping our product to them.

We urge you to oppose House Bill 2358 and Senate Bill 616 the detrimental effects of this legislation will put Oregon Farmers and Agriculture industry producers in a detrimental position to compete against out of state producers.

Sincerely,

Joe Gold and Steve Gold  
Gold Family Farms, Inc.  
Hillsboro, Oregon