

Representatives,

I would like to testify against HB 2358. I am a 4th generation family farmer working with my wife, father in law and brother in law on our family farm here in Western Oregon.

We grow blueberries with a focus on high quality fresh fruit. Growing and harvesting high quality blueberries requires attention and labor year round with a peak in labor during the summer months during harvest. HB 2358 has been calculated to cost our farm around \$350,000 with our current labor needs.

Blueberry prices are set by customer demand and buying practices. We can not simply raise prices to offset a six-figure increase. HB 2358 puts Oregon family farms at a disadvantage with our direct competitors in the fresh blueberry market including Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, and British Columbia.

Our farm has been built around taking care of our employees and creating a strong team. Our farm has 15 full time employees and, during harvest an additional 150-200 employees are needed to bring in the crop. Our farm has built a reputation of fair pay, respect and good working conditions. Many of our seasonal employees come back year after year because of reputation.

The reality of HB 2358 is that in order to stay competitive on our farm we will be looking to add employees to reduce hours, which is not easy, we will cut hours for existing employees which will take money out of hard-working families' pockets.

I ask you to oppose HB 2358 as it will hurt hard working families by reduced hours and hurt family farms through increased labor costs.