

Hello my name is Nick Anderson and I am against HB2358. I work on a small orchard in The Dalles, Oregon. Farmers can not absorb another cost. Farmers do not get to set their Prices; we harvest and sell to the market. We can not just pass the cost on like most other industries are able to do. The company I work at pays very fair wages and if this bill passes the company will have to reduce employee benefits. The company supplies housing for the year-round employees and their families, they also supply housing for the seasonal work force and their families. I don't see other industries supplying housing to their employees and employee families. Owners of McDonalds franchises, Home Depots, Safeway's or other businesses do not supply housing, this is a major cost to the farmers. All other industries can set their employee's work weeks at or just below 40 hours a week and never have to pay overtime. I personally know this I worked in some other industries when I was younger and about 32 hours in my work week, they would start to watch to ensure I would not go over the 40-hour mark. Farmers are at mother natures mercy, the fruit dictates when it gets harvested if it all ripens at once we will work more hours. You can't just tell the commodity your grown to wait everyone is at 40-hours please stop ripening. The seasonal employee's come to work to make as much money as they can, if we start to reduce their hours to 40-hours per week many will either leave or get a second job to make up for the lost wages. The year-round employees at this orchard count on harvest time we all get raises along with increased hours available. If this bill passes the company cannot afford to pay employees the harvest wages and overtime, they would have to limit us to 40 hours per week even know we would want to work more. You think you are helping employees by passing this bill, but farmers work on tight margins. If they want to stay in business, they cannot absorb the cost and will have to start cutting benefits, bonuses, employees and possible a wage freeze. They may have to move to H2A workers and all the normal seasonal workers that have been for 10 plus years will no longer have jobs. Hb 2358 is not good for farmers or employees of Oregon. Farmers are not the bad people; they care about their employees and take a personal interest in their employees' life's and help them when they can. Thank you for taking the time to read this, Nick Anderson