

My name is Greg Bennett and I am a third generation farmer who grows onions and grass seed in Marion county. Our small and family run farms are struggling to survive in our current regulatory environment, and they need our support now more than ever. Farmers are price takers. This means we do not have the luxury of increasing the price of our crops to beat overhead costs. Any cost imposed on me by the state goes right to my bottom line, and these costs can be overwhelming, especially in agriculture. I support HB 2334 because this bill is about good governance – administrative agencies must follow the law and clearly identify, analyze, and mitigate economic burdens on our small and family run businesses. When a state agency creates a rule, the agency is supposed to prepare a statement identifying any significant economic impacts on businesses, but our agencies are not taking this seriously, and we are finding out too late the true costs of some of these rules! HB 2334 would help clarify what agencies need to do when analyzing costs, meaningfully mitigate those impacts, and require a cost analysis for even temporary rules. As we have seen during the COVID-19 pandemic, despite being temporary, regulations can have lasting impacts on our small businesses, and if done improperly, can put us out of business. I support HB 2334 because it helps reinforce that Oregon's agencies need to consider the economic consequences of their rules on our small businesses and mitigate those impacts during the administrative process. Please vote YES on HB 2334!