

My name is Mark Van Hoef, I am first generation nurseryman. Our McMinnville operation is in it's 32 year of operation and employs 61-63 workers who will be impacted by passage of HB 2358. The average hourly wage of our workers is currently at \$15.11, and average total time of each work week at 47.71 hours. Many of these workers have been in our employment for over 15-20 years. Should this pass it will likely cause three very negative results:

1. All workers will only be allowed to work maximum of 40 hours; thus reducing their take home weekly paychecks. The nursery industry lives with very small margins, and with many other increased cost facing our industry this is not the time to increase the cost of nursery labor.
2. With the likely reduction in labor hours (and possible total work force), it will likely create a situation that much of work will not get done on time. This will lead the business to reduce the size and scope of the operation. No need to grow plants that will be comprised by lack of timely production and culturing.
3. Reductions to both the size of our business and the size of our labor force will certainly cut into our overall profitability; and thus lessen our tax contribution to the state. The entire Oregon nursery industry competes with nursery growers in states much closer to customers. With recent freight rates at 25-30% increases, it has added to the competitive advantage of other growers closer to the markets. These added costs and the issues facing the Oregon nursery community may drive some out of business.