

Mr. Chair and Members of the House Committee on Business and Labor, my name is Ruth Olsen and I live in Klamath Falls, Oregon. I oppose HB 2358 because it will ultimately increase the costs of doing business for farmers and agricultural producers - many of whom cannot afford an increase in costs. It is my opinion that agricultural laborers should be able to negotiate hours and compensation independently, without having government requirements for pay. Many of these jobs are seasonal and of short duration. Not allowing people to work more days or hours because ag producers can't afford overtime pay reduces the income for workers and also drives up the cost of products. It would probably also result in more crop waste if products cannot be harvested in time due to lack of workers. If there are other issues with farm labor, a different solution should be sought that will be less detrimental to all concerned. Thank you for your consideration.