

My name is Willona Bielenberg and I am an Oregon Family Farmer. Our life has been dedicated to providing quality family farmed Oregon row crops, grass seed, and wheat. Our farm hires several full time as well as seasonal employees. As a family farm we pay a competitive wage to our employees and those employees rely on the opportunity to work extra hours during our planting, growing, and harvest season. However, HB2358 would force our family farm to eliminate overtime to our very employees that rely on the extra income. Our family farm will be forced to limit the number of hours worked by our employees to 40 hours in a week to avoid the added expense of overtime pay. HB 2358 proposes the most aggressive overtime policy in the country, which would be devastating for local farmers and our employees, who are already struggling financially. Furthermore, if this Bill passes it could force us to sell our family farm to large corporate farms and for our family farm to move out of Oregon state. I am very concerned that this policy hasn't been well-vetted and will actually harm those it intends to help. Please consider this testimony and how this Bill will be detrimental to Oregon Family Farms. Please oppose HB 2358 this session. This bills would negatively impact not only family farmers and ranchers in Oregon, but also agricultural workers!