

I am writing to you in Support of HB2358. My name is Jim Bronec of Praying Mantis Farm LLC. I am a third generation farmer growing seed crops and vegetables in the Willamette valley. I love farming and support in any way the continuation of good farming and work on the land. We must encourage and pay just wages to not only farmers but farm workers as well. In most successful industries, valuing workers is seen as a GOOD investment in growing a successful company. We here at Praying Mantis Farm have made a commitment to paying \$15/hr with 1&1/2 hourly wages at overtime (more that 8hr workday). This has actually helped with keeping good workers with high morale working for our farm. This has done nothing but improve our business. In the end you need to ask, then answer, one question honestly. Would you work for the wages farm workers in Oregon work for? Would you want your children to work for such wages? Why would we expect workers doing the valuable work of harvesting our crops to settle for anything less. Join me in valuing farm workers and farming in Oregon and SUPPORT HB2358