

I am writing on behalf of the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce in opposition to House Bill 2358. This bill would not have the intended consequences and would actually lower the income of farm workers instead of increasing it. The Ag Industry operates on narrow margins and customers set the prices. This means that there is only so much a grower can charge for their product. Any increase in costs would make it difficult if not impossible to compete in the market.

If this bill passes and the grower is required to pay the overtime, Oregon-grown produce will not be able to compete in the market which could result in a loss of jobs. Growers may move their farms or ranches to other states so they can compete. Growers could also turn to more automated, mechanized methods for harvest. It also means the growers will be forced to limit the hours per worker and that will be lower income for them and their families. For your consideration I respectfully offer this testimony in opposition to HB 2358.

I respectfully request that you vote no on HB 2358.