

March 8th, 2021

House Committee on Business and Labor
RE: OPPOSED HB 2358 – Ag Overtime

Dear Chair Holvey and Committee,

I am opposed to HB 2358 – Ag Overtime bill.

I am a 5th generation farmer working to keep the family farm viable for hopefully a 6th generation. However, it seems the Oregon Legislature continues to raise our costs of farming in this state despite our protests and farmers leaving the state.

We are not lying to you about the devastating effects of continuing to raise our costs.

Over the last few legislative sessions, you have raised our labor costs through minimum wage and paid sick leave. You have raised our machinery costs through the CAT tax which now appears on nearly every invoice I pay as well as the LCFS.

Now this session you are seriously discussing taxing our off-road diesel, phasing diesel out and now making us pay more for labor that our operations depend upon.

Farming is seasonal. That means we do not have a consistent 40-hour work week because our jobs depend on timing of the crops and the weather. Often times we have a short window to get the task at hand done. This requires long hours for a short duration. When averaged out over a year it's a 40-hour work week.

If passed, we would seek to mechanize and eliminate employees where possible. Or depending on what other bad bills you decide to pass to increase our costs simply leave the state.

I urge you to oppose this bad bill.