

I own and operate more than 500 acres of orchards in Hood River and Wasco counties. My peak seasonal employment is about 160 workers. I believe strongly that HB 2358 would be terrible for my business - and not beneficial to my workers. Due to the intense seasonal nature of my business, with 7 days a week work in the harvest, I would accrue between \$150,000-200,000 in additional expenses if I operated as in years past. My business does not usually have the margins to absorb such a bump. As a consequence, I would be removing marginal blocks of fruit, which would reduce the work available for my long-time staff.

Additionally, this bill would be bad for workers. Agricultural laborers thrive on making large amounts of money in seasonal activities - they rely upon it. But if I am guaranteeing overtime wages, I would have to increase my crew size to limit overtime (only done by adding more H2A employees). This would have the impact of having reduced hours and income for the remainder of the staff. At the end of the day, my workers would be earning fewer dollars per day - and per year, due to these restrictions. They will not be happy - but they would have to blame the state of Oregon for it.

I can talk at length about how this bill will hurt my operation (and it will). But the important message is that it will hurt workers just as much.

Please do not sign HB 2358 into law.

Thank you, Gorham Blaine