

Comments on HB 2358

HB 2358

•My Name is Yesenia Sanchez. I own Old Parkdale Farms. We are a small family farm, growing Pears, the Oregon State Fruit, in Hood River County.

•Please do not pass this bill without understanding the true impact to small farms, farmworkers, the value of employer provided housing, and the overall economic impact to Oregon.

•An example of a benefit that isn't considered is housing. One of my team members lives in a 3 bedroom house on our farm with his wife and two daughters.

•He does not pay for rent or utilities; a benefit worth \$2000 per month. His situation is not unique our area.

•How many of you worked a job that provided you free housing and utilities? Probably not many.

•This bill doesn't consider the situation of all farmworkers and the benefits provided such as employer provided housing.

•Small family farms are already struggling to absorb increased operational costs with slim profit margins. In fact, the US lost 4,400 farm operations in 2020.

•Oregon family farms will be swallowed by corporate farms and the Oregon State Fruit will no longer be grown by Oregon families; it will be grown by corporate "wall street" backed farms that have no personal relationship with the farmworkers.

•I understand and respect the intent of this bill. No worker should be exploited or undercompensated for their efforts. I urge you to work with farmers and farmworkers to understand the impact of this action and whether the bill as written would truly meet the intent without putting a dagger in the heart of family farms and harming farmworkers.