

Please oppose this bill! This legislation will only hurt the people it is intended to help.

My name is Steve Vangrunsvan and I farm in Washington County with my wife Anna. We are a small dairy farm shipping milk to Darigold. We employ 2 people in addition to multiple family members. One of those employees has been working on this farm longer than I have been alive. I feel we treat our employees exceptionally well even though they are not paid a lot. This is not because we don't want to it is because we can't afford to. A year ago I asked an employee if he wanted a pay raise or a new tractor to drive? He chose the new tractor. Long days are a fact of life on a dairy farm. The day is over when the work is done. Then we do it all over again the next day.

If we were to be forced to pay overtime then we would be forced to reduce benefits like clothing, beef, vehicle, paid vacation time and housing. From what our employees tell us they prefer these benefits over additional pay.

One option for us is to mechanize. Each year we weigh the costs and benefits of robotic milking and feeding cows. 8 years ago the technology wasn't good enough and too expensive when compared to our operation. 6 months ago when we researched this option we chose to stick with our current operation. Each time we do this analysis we come closer to robotics.

Legislation like this only favors the large corporate farm structure.

Please oppose HB 2358. This bill will negatively impact not only family farmers in Oregon, but also the agricultural workers that it intends to help!

Steve