

Please oppose HB 2358

Unless you own or have worked on a farm, you just don't understand what this means to our industry! Why is Oregon's legislature willing to undermine agriculture? The supermajority are not elected by rural Oregonians, yet they shape our natural resources industries. The supermajority is out of touch with rural Oregonians and should seriously consider the consequences of something they know very little about. It may look good on paper, but in reality it is not!

*Because farm families simply cannot afford the provisions of this bill, it will result in substantial harm to ag employees as operators will need to mechanize, reduce employees, reduce scheduled shifts, or even move out of Oregon to stay in business. The unfortunate result will be reduced wages for agricultural workers, lost jobs, and less farms.

* HB 2358 would require every farm and ranch in Oregon to pay overtime to employees after 40 hours of work, with no exceptions or consideration of peak season.

*Farmers cannot simply increase the sale price of my crops to account for added labor costs. Consumers set the prices and will buy from other states or countries that sell at a cheaper price. I will have to absorb any added overhead.

*Farms can't operate at a loss year-over-year, so we have to control costs that seem to increase every year in Oregon. I know it's not the goal of this bill to reduce employee take-home pay, but HB 2358 demands wages that are not possible with the economics of agriculture and will result in reduced pay and hours for farm employees.

Thank you for your time.