



February 28, 2025

House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Support for HB2972

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice-Chairs Elmer & Muñoz, and Committee Members,

Dragonberry Produce Inc. is an employer in Oregon, and I am writing to advocate for the passage of House Bill 2972. Finding skilled and dedicated employees is always a challenge. By supporting reentry programs, HB 2972 gives our organization access to a broader talent pool that would tap into an often-overlooked segment of our population. With over 1 million justice involved individuals in Oregon, providing training and support to adults in custody allows them to develop valuable skills and become productive members of our workforce.

Hiring and training new employees is expensive. HB 2872 would provide adults in custody with the tools they need to succeed, we increase the likelihood of long-term employment, which will reduce workforce turnover costs for business owners.

When people have jobs, they spend money, pay taxes, and contribute to our communities. HB 2972 is an investment that will pay dividends by boosting our state's economy and reducing the burden on social services. Statistics show that upon removing these barriers, individuals can make upwards of \$5200 more per year in salary and benefits. Investment from our state for this work supports an individual from release to re-entry to expungement by removing significant barriers to quality jobs, access to education, secure safe housing and more.

Our goal should be facilitating successful reentry into the workforce, and as such, HB 2972 can lower recidivism rates, leading to safer communities and reduced costs associated with incarceration.

HB 2972 is a practical and effective way to address the workforce challenges many companies encounter while also promoting economic growth. I urge you to support its passage – it is an investment in our communities and our statewide economy.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Oregon businesses and your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy Nguyen, President  
Dragonberry Produce Inc.