

Submitter: Lisa Perry
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2548

My name is Lisa Perry, I grow tree fruits : cherries, pears, apples, peaches, other stone fruit.

I was raised to work hard and treat others how I would want to be treated. HB 2548 gets in the way of both of those core beliefs by not allowing me to reward dedicated employees in a way that is manageable for my business to offer. Safety and compensation are important foundational blocks to my business. This bills acts like there is no relationship between the employer and employee- for my business you are sorely wrong in this assumption. I have return employees because they enjoy the work environment I have provided.

Oregon already has some of the highest labor cost in the country. Farmers generally don't get to set prices for their commodities, so there is no way to recover the increased cost passed by the new governing Board. I have doubts about the makeup of this board, it sounds like their goals are to make Oregon an uninviting place to do business and end up hurting those employees who work for people who will close the doors on their operation because of so much government overreach.

Farm workers are currently protected by very strong workplace regulations such as paid sick time and minimum wage. Oregon OSHA has one of the highest worksite inspection rates and has adopted some of the most expansive workplace protections in the country. What real issue is this bill trying to solve? Government overreach?

YIKES!!!!!! HB 2548 gives unelected bureaucrats the power to set wages and safety rules that go far beyond current protections, adding more regulatory and cost burden to farms. There is no accountability for the decisions they make, even if their decisions ultimately close farms or result in layoffs. HOW DOES THIS SOUND LIKE A GOOD IDEA???

I am strongly opposed to the proposal in HB 2548 that eliminates at-will employment for farms and ranches. HB 2548 carves out farms and puts us at risk for costly claims for making necessary staffing decisions. All other private sectors in Oregon enjoy at-will status, but farms—whose employment needs are impacted by weather, yields, trade and market conditions, pests and diseases—would not. This is unfair.

This bill doesn't help workers or consumers; it just makes farming harder and more expensive, if your goal is to have less food security, this will accomplish that.

I urge you to vote no on HB 2548 to protect Oregon farms and ranches and the jobs we currently provide.

Please oppose HB 2548. This is a very negative bill for farm employers and the state of Oregon.