

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

My name is Amy Kaser, and I farm with my family in Wasco County, where we raise wheat, cattle, and hay. I am writing in opposition to HB 2548. I really don't understand the need for this board to increase regulation on family farms. We already have very stringent safety standards in place regulated by OR-OSHA. The current rules for Agriculture are written in a PDF document that is 689 pages long: <https://osha.oregon.gov/rules/final/pages/division-4.aspx>. OSHA is obviously very thorough in writing the standards and they are also helpful in supporting farms with safety consultations and safety training materials.

The state has already passed an ag overtime law that is going to be a huge expense for small farms, many of whom also provide housing, utilities, and health insurance for their employees. This bill would give an unelected group the ability to set wages that would be even more burdensome upon our farm as we face falling wheat prices and increased input costs. And who will incur the costs of this labor standards board? Why do Oregon taxpayers need to pay for something that is really already in place through OSHA, state minimum wage laws, and state overtime law?

Before you pass legislation like this, you need to involve the people who will be directly affected and determine the long-term consequences. Please vote NO on HB 2548.