

Jeff McNerney
McNerney Farms Inc.
5015 Green Rd., Hood River, OR 97031

Oregon House Committee
Re: HB 2548

Dear Committee Members,

As you read the testimony in support of HB 2548 I would ask that you take note of the authors and what the common thread seems to be. It appears that the farm workers writing in support of HB 2548 are generally involved with contractors working in western Oregon.

In Hood River Valley where we farm, our workers live in our on farm housing that we provide rent and utility free. Along with the free housing, our living standards are closely monitored by OR-OSHA. We do not use contractors in the tree fruit industry. Workers are either domestic workers living in our housing or on H2A government visa's.

Perhaps the sponsors of this bill should look at the predominantly Latino labor contractors operating out of the Willamette Valley and leave those of us who have multi-generational families living on our farms alone.

Let me see testimony from workers living and working in Hood River and Wasco counties that think more government regulations are going to make their lives better. Latinos that work in agriculture in our area are able to get a "leg up" with free housing and year-round work. In turn their children get public K-12 education regardless of legal status. Many of these kids have and are attending universities and contributing to not only the well being of their families but to the overall fabric of America.

Sincerely,
Jeff McNerney
McNerney Farms Inc.