

Submitter: Wayne Rose
On Behalf Of: Oregon Farm Workers
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2548

Hello, I am Wayne Rose. I live and work in The Dalles Oregon. For the last 30 years I have been working on a cherry orchard, and my livelihood is at risk.

I'm asking you to oppose HB 2548 because it threatens Oregon's family farms the ability to keep farming. Oregon already has some of the highest labor costs in the country, and after several tough years, We can't afford more regulations and wage increases.

This bill would give special interests groups and unelected officials the power to set wages and safety rules that go far beyond current protections, adding more regulatory burden to farms around Oregon. Farmers know how devastating this regulatory model is. Oregon's state agencies have adopted very harmful regulations in the last five years with little to no accountability for their actions. This board would be no different; its members aren't even elected.

HB 2548 unfairly targets agriculture by taking away at-will employment, meaning we wouldn't be able to make necessary staffing decisions without the risk of costly lawsuits. One claim can cost tens of thousands of dollars or more. I also don't believe that farms should be forced keep employees who may not meet performance expectations or adapt to the demands of the job. All other sectors in Oregon would be at-will, but farms—whose employment needs are impacted by weather, yields, trade, market conditions, pests, diseases, etc.—would not. Not only is that unfair, but it will likely result in job loss, not job security.

This bill doesn't help workers or consumers; it just makes farming harder and more expensive. I have already had my hours reduced to comply with agricultural overtime, and HB 2548 would have more severe consequences.

HB 2548 threatens the livelihood of family farms and ranches by imposing unnecessary

legal burdens. It increases costs and limits the flexibility needed to manage agricultural

businesses. At a time when family farms are struggling to stay afloat, the legislature should

reject this punitive concept. Please vote "NO" on HB 2548

I urge you to vote no to protect our farms and jobs.

Wayne Rose