

Submitter: Noah Fessler
On Behalf Of: Woodburn Nursery
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2548

March 11, 2025

Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

I am writing to strongly oppose Oregon House Bill 2548. As a small business owner in agriculture, this bill would impose costly new regulations and remove essential flexibility in managing my workforce. The proposed Agricultural Workforce Standards Board would have the power to set wages, establish rest breaks, and impose additional health and safety requirements on top of existing ones, all of which would increase operational costs and add uncertainty.

Most concerning is the elimination of at-will employment for farms. This would open the door to costly lawsuits and make it extremely difficult to make necessary staffing decisions. With Oregon already facing high labor costs and economic uncertainty, this bill would further threaten the viability of small family farms like mine.

I urge you to reject HB 2548. It will only harm our state's agriculture industry, create more legal risks, and make farming in Oregon even more difficult.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Noah M. Fessler
Woodburn Nursery & Azaleas