

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

Hello,

My name is Tyler Meskers, a second generation American flower farmer in Aurora, Oregon. Our family business employees 30 year round employees which are family to us. We produce cut flowers year round in greenhouses.

I would like to express my concern with HB2548. This proposed bill simply threatens my ability to keep farming. Over 80% of all flowers are imported to the USA from countries like Colombia and Ecuador. Our direct competitors are producers from South America, who have cheaper labor and lower costs to produce flowers. HB2548 will make being an Oregon flower farmer harder than it already is, pushing more production and jobs out of the state and likely to other countries.

Oregon already has some of the highest labor costs in the country. I simply can not afford more regulations and wage increases, especially when competing with cheaper imports from other countries who simply do not have the regulations or costs we have domestically.

Last, our employees are family. My parents immigrated from Holland to pursue the American Dream. While doing so, they managed to create a business which employees 30 other immigrant families. Together we are a family, working toward the same goal, to keep the farm successful. We all benefit by this success. HB2548 would threaten the livelihood of our family farm and impose unnecessary legal burdens between our "family".

Please keep family businesses in mind when considering this bill.

Sincerely,  
Tyler Meskers  
Flower Farmer of Aurora, Oregon