

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

My name is Compton Chase, and I grow Hazelnuts.

Please oppose HB 2548.

This proposal puts labor against capital, will reduce the employment opportunities in farming and naively thinks that bureaucrats will do better job than farmers communicating directly with farm workers regarding opportunities and wages.

HB 2548 gives unelected bureaucrats the power to set wages and safety rules that go far beyond current protections, adding more regulatory and cost burdens to local farms, but not to other industries. There is no accountability for the decisions the Board makes, even if their decisions close farms or result in layoffs.

I am strongly opposed to the proposal in HB 2548 that eliminates at-will employment for farmers. At-will employment is the law in nearly every state. But HB 2548 carves out farms and unfairly discriminates against the production farming sector.

Many farms have already had to reduce worker hours or automate to control labor costs associated with overtime; HB 2548 would have more severe consequences.

I will reduce hiring of full time employees.. Moreover, I will seek to purchase machines which substitute for labor.

I urge you to vote no on HB 2548 to protect Oregon producers and the jobs we are currently able to provide.

Sincerely,

Compton Chase, Farmer of Hazelnuts in Benton County