



March 11, 2025

Chair Graber, Vice-Chair Elmer, Vice-Chair Munoz and Members  
of the House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards,

I urge you to oppose HB 2548, which would impose costly and unnecessary burdens on Oregon's farms and ranches. This bill creates empowers an unelected governing body with the authority to increase farm regulations every two years, including setting wages, mandating rest breaks and work hours, and imposing new training requirements. Additionally, it eliminates at-will employment, making it more difficult for farm employers to manage their workforce and exposing them to costly litigation.

HB 2548 would make it so expensive and risky to employ workers that many family farms will be forced to downsize or lay off employees. Oregon farms are already struggling with poor yields and low commodity prices, and this bill would further threaten their survival. By shifting the burden of proof in employment disputes, increasing litigation risks, and restricting staffing flexibility, HB 2548 puts family farms in an untenable position. The Legislature should reject this harmful proposal and instead support policies that help Oregon's agricultural businesses remain viable.

Sincerely Yours,

  
**Kate Hartnell**

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📍 33131 Witt Dr., Tangent OR 97389

☎ 541.619.3529

✉ [katehartnell@hotmail.com](mailto:katehartnell@hotmail.com)

