

Submitter: Austin Sayer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2548

Oregon agriculture is in crisis right now, especially the grass seed industry. We have been hit with dwindling margins, slow markets, and poor commodity prices. The optics coming from recent legislation out of Salem looks very poor on all our lawmakers especially with the recent Ag overtime bill. I have been a farmer my whole life as a fifth generation farmer and I have raised my kids to become ANYTHING but a farmer because we are being regulated to death in this state. HB2548 is just another nail in the coffin to an industry that makes this state great, even if our leaders are incapable of recognizing it. We can't afford higher prices for ANY inputs right now. My operation is hanging on by a thread and for the first time in my life, I'm in real danger of being unable to pay bills to get my crop through harvest. My third largest expense on my small farm is labor costs and following the regulations surrounding labor is one of the most onerous tasks I have. Right now is definitely not the time to burden our industry with more costs and more regulations.