

Submitter: Brian E

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2548

I am asking you to vote no on HB 2548 because it puts my livelihood at risk. My farm is a multigenerational operation that has been in business for close to 100 years. This bill would add more risk and expense to my operation. My farm and most in Oregon rely on people to grow, harvest, and package our products. With added costs and regulations from overtime pay to food safety compliance, it is no longer enjoyable to farm.

Giving an unelected government group of officials the power to increase regulations that are already set by other regulatory agencies doesn't make any sense. Is there a reason to over step OR-OSHA or the department of labor? They already have rules and regulations of their own and are constantly being added to. HB 2548 adds another regulatory body for no necessary reason.

The bigger issue is taking away at-will-employment for farms. Most farms in Oregon are seasonal, and we have to make necessary staffing reductions or increases depending on our season and market conditions. If we had to reduce our workforce due to the end of our season, that puts us at risk of a legal claim. It would be unfair for farms to be forced to keep unproductive workers; while other industry sectors are not required to employ sub-par workers.

HB 2548 doesn't help workers or farmers. It just drives a bigger wedge between employee and employer. Nobody comes out ahead with HB 2548; except Unions and trial lawyers. This adds more uncertainty for both the farmer and the employee.

I hear politicians talk about how important farms and food production is for the Oregon economy. Then something like HB 2548 comes along; it just tells me the state of Oregon does not want farms around.

Farming is my livelihood and HB 2548 puts that at risk.

VOTE NO ON HB 2548!!

Thank you