

Submitter: Sabine Thoma-Blaschko  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2548

This bill undermines the relationship between farm employers and workers by transferring critical decisions about staffing, wages, benefits, and training to an unelected and unaccountable bureaucratic body. Farmers would be stripped of their ability to make management decisions under this punitive concept.

HB 2548 disregards the significant protections already in place for farmworkers and threatens to fast-track new, burdensome regulations that could cripple Oregon's agricultural industry.

Oregon law currently allows for at-will employment, meaning both employers and employees can terminate the employment relationship without notice or cause, except in specific cases like public employment or contracts. All industries in Oregon are considered at-will, including farms and ranches. HB 2548 would dramatically alter this structure for farms and ranches, creating significant challenges and litigation risk for agricultural employers.

Many Oregon farms are already struggling with poor yields and low commodity prices. Most will spend the next several years recovering from cash losses incurred in 2023 and 2024. HB 2548 adds another layer of uncertainty that could force family farms into financial ruin.

As a regular small farms customer and an Oregonian, I oppose this bill.