

Submitter: Jess DePew

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace
Standards

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2548

Chair Grayber, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Muñoz, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support for HB 2548, which establishes the Agricultural Workforce Standards Board in Oregon.

Farmworkers have been historically excluded from crucial labor protections such as the National Labor Relations Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act. These exclusions have had detrimental effects, resulting in farmworkers being among the lowest-paid workers in the state and facing inadequate working conditions.

By creating a Farmworker Standards Board, we can ensure that farmworkers have a voice in setting industry standards and addressing these historical exclusions.

The effectiveness of workforce standards boards has been proven in cities and states across the country. These boards bring workers, industry representatives, and public representatives together to establish meaningful standards and provide real enforcement power to ensure accountability.

I urge you to pass HB 2548 and create a Farmworker Standards Board, empowering farmworkers to play an active role in shaping the standards of the industry they support.

Jess DePew
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