

Submitter: Emma Hayes  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2548

I urge your YES on HB 2548.

Since the 1930's, farmworkers have been excluded from key labor protections such as the National Labor Relations Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act. These exclusions have resulted in farmworkers being one of the lowest paid workers in the state and inadequate working conditions. Not just adults, but children too, work long hours in all weather conditions, growing and picking the food that feeds everyone and runs our economy. They do back-breaking work every day to support their families, and we rely on them for the most basic of necessities.

There is no reason that these people need to be excluded from the basic protections of their human rights that other workers have. Safe and fair working conditions and pay are not a privilege, they are a right, and the fact that this has been denied farmworkers for so long is criminal. Creating a Farmworker Standards Board will ensure that farmworkers voices have a say in setting industry standards and help end the unjust mistreatment of our neighbors. Cities and states across the country have proven that workforce standards boards work.

These boards bring workers together with industry and public representatives to set meaningful standards, with real enforcement power to ensure accountability. It's time to protect and respect our farmworkers and the invaluable work they do for everyone.

Thank you so much for reading this, and please, please use the power you hold over your constituents to move for the protection of their lives.

I urge you to pass HB 2548.

Sincerely,  
Emma Hayes  
Portland, OR