

March 11, 2025

TO: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards

RE: Support for House Bill 2548

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

My name is Marisol De La Torre, I live in Albany and I am writing to express strong support for HB 2548, which would establish a Farmworker Standards Board in Oregon.

Farmworkers are vital to Oregon's economy, contributing over **\$6.4 billion** and ensuring a steady food supply. Despite their essential work, they have long been excluded from basic labor protections, leaving them vulnerable to low wages and poor working conditions. When Congress passed foundational labor laws in 1938, farmworkers and domestic workers were deliberately left out. This year, the legislature has the opportunity to right a longstanding injustice and ensure farmworkers have the labor protections they deserve.

By establishing the Farmworker Standards Board, HB 2548 will give farmworkers a voice in setting industry standards with real enforcement and accountability. The board will ensure **fair wages, safe working conditions, and protection from retaliation**.

Cities and states across the country have proven that workforce standards boards work. From New York's farm laborers to Seattle's domestic workers, these boards bring together workers, industry representatives, and public officials to set standards with real enforcement power, ensuring accountability. By giving workers a voice and the protections they deserve, these boards not only improve working conditions but also support the essential food supply that sustains our communities.

I urge you to support Oregon farmworkers and **vote yes on HB 2548**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Marisol De La Torre