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

As someone who transferred to the agricultural industry from another outdoor industry, the difference in expected wage and quality of worklife is astounding. General laborers are treated as expendable, with far less training for workers rights, and unfair compensation for minimum wage and overtime pay. Agriculture should be held to the same standards as other industries in Oregon - in regards to pay, overtime, workplace safety, and training. Having more regulation in these areas is a good thing for all workers in the industry. Empowering the bottom line raises standards for the whole industry - and that is a very good thing.

Many of my coworkers in general labor love their jobs, but just like everyone else they are effected by inflation, rising rent costs, and usually have other fees in regards to immigration and family life in addition to that. Other laws have been passed to address this, and other industries have raised their standards, but still agriculture lags behind. These hardworking individuals deserve to be fairly compensated with improvements in worker protections and pay. Agriculture, in this state and others, has a long history of labor exploitation. It is time to take the necessary legislative steps to reduce the gap between this field and others.