

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

Dear members of the House of Representatives,

There is no question both farm workers and farm owners have tough, thankless jobs. I think if the state would like to highly regulate farmers for employing farm workers the state should force all customers, such as ALL retailers, ALL wholesalers, ALL restaurants, and ALL retail nurseries to purchase ALL instate grown commodities and plants first, with prices on those commodities set by a coalition of farmers and farm workers. Commodities would include ALL fresh fruits and vegetables grown in the state of Oregon and all nursery stock, poultry, eggs, red meat, and milk. Forcing customers to pay farmers accordingly will facilitate higher pay for farm workers. Currently Oregon has wage and labor rules different from all other states and other countries, especially Mexico. Rules should be set so if retailers, wholesalers, and restaurants violate the "Buy Oregon First" farm grown commodities they will face sever civil and criminal penalties. The state should also provide training to farmers on who to call to set up litigation if they find a customer violating the "Buy Oregon First" law. The state should also be required, by law, to only purchase Oregon grown commodities first, for all schools and all uses by state of Oregon. This will create an environment where farmers and farm workers can thrive, because they will only have to compete for Oregon business with other farmers in Oregon.

Thank you for reading my testimony.