



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 13, 2025

RE: Testimony in opposition to HB 2548

Chair Grayber, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Munoz, and members of the committee:

My name is Shelly Boshart Davis. I am the State Representative from HD15 representing Albany, Millersburg and Tangent – and the thousands of acres of surrounding farmland. AND I am a proud Oregon farmer. I wanted to talk about how honestly hurt and offended I am by this legislation. But instead, let me tell you about my farm, my operation, and my experience.

Farming isn't just my job—I've been a farmworker my entire growing up life. Since I was 12, I have only missed working 1 harvest. And I can tell you the satisfaction of harvesting something real, something that goes to feed families – it's honestly hard to describe. It's hard work. But I don't do it alone. My employees are the heart of our operation. They are skilled, hardworking people who take pride in what they do, and I make sure they are treated with the fairness, respect, and care they deserve. I have done their job for many summers, and I don't ask of them anything that I wouldn't be willing to do – and have done – myself. I take pride in supporting former employees through their incredible and individual journeys in life. My former tractor operators have become teachers, doctors, computer scientists, mechanics, serve in the military, butchers, businessmen and women, welders and more. And I have enjoyed being part of what they have become.

My favorite part of our operation is being part of teaching teenagers the value of hard work, getting their hands dirty, showing them how much they can accomplish, and giving them responsibility for their “workplace.” They will know how to work as a team and how their work accomplished something. They understand responsibility and expectations.

That's why I'm speaking out against House Bill 2548. It's being presented as a way to protect farmworkers, but here's the truth: Oregon already has some of the strongest labor protections in the country. We follow strict safety standards, provide fair wages, offer housing, and comply with a long list of regulations designed to keep workers safe. And on my farm, we go beyond the bare minimum—we have provided bonuses, flexible schedules, and a work environment built on trust and mutual respect.

HB 2548 assumes that farmers like me don't care about our employees, and that's simply not true. What this bill will actually do is create more bureaucracy, more costs, and more barriers that make it harder for farms to survive. And when farms close, the very workers this bill claims to protect will be the ones hurt the most.

A bureaucratic board is not needed to tell me how to treat my employees—I know them. I celebrate their successes, I support their families and their life goals, and I want them to thrive just as much as I want my farming operation to thrive.

Oregon farmers are already doing the right thing. We don't need more regulation—we need policies that allow farms and workers to succeed together. Go after the bad guys, don't hurt the good guys.

And lastly, this isn't how this Legislature should operate. Getting a 21-page amendment less than 24 hours on the night before hearing a bill with major, farm-killing, and life-altering consequences isn't a thoughtful or open process. I'm embarrassed this happens, that it's confusing, and that farmers and farmworkers alike are testifying on something where they may or may not know there's even an amendment that changes and adds to this legislation. It's not right.

I will oppose HB 2548 – and the late amendment – and I will fight for farms and farmworkers alike to support their success and work to help **all** to thrive in this state.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted into the House record,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Shelly Boshart Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shelly Boshart Davis  
Oregon State Representative  
District 15