



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Paul Anderes, Commissioner
R. Matthew Scarfo, Commissioner
Jake Seavert, Commissioner

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer

1106 K. Avenue | La Grande, Oregon 97850

Phone: (541) 963-1001 | Fax (541) 963-1079

March 14, 2025

Chair Grayber, Vice Chair Elmer, Vice Chair Muñoz, and Committee Members,

Thank you for accepting my written testimony regarding **House Bill 2548**. My name is Jake Seavert, and I serve as a Union County Commissioner. I am writing on behalf of my constituents in rural eastern Oregon to express my strong opposition to this bill, which creates laws regarding a labor standards board for agricultural workers.

This bill will inhibit an already overregulated industry in a way that is both unfair and unjust. It disregards the significant protections already in place for farm workers and threatens to fast-track new, burdensome regulations that will harm Oregon's agricultural industry. The one-size-fits-all approach will affect employers with one employee or 1,000. HB 2548 will decrease the survivability of family-owned farms and ranches. With the implementation of agricultural overtime, challenges in recruiting new workers to production agriculture, increased input costs, and low returns on commodities, we would see a severe decline in small, local agricultural production.

HB 2548 will also increase litigation costs, shift the burden of proof to agricultural employers, and reduce flexibility in staffing by removing at-will employment status. Please consider the rural portion of the state and the difficulties we face in production agriculture, and oppose HB 2548.

Sincerely,

Jake Seavert
Union County Commissioner