

## Regarding Oregon HB 2548

**Please vote “No” on HB 2548.** There would be uncertainty and unnecessary costs related to every farmer or rancher throughout the state. Most family farmers and ranchers have seasons and employment during those seasons vary depending on the type of operation. This is why agriculture employment has remained exempt as you cannot create a reliable and stable schedule “a one fits all rules” for every agriculture operation that employs seasonal help. Farm crops and livestock can have schedules of their own and sometime work must be done at various times and is sporadic. If you are calving out heifers then there must be someone on watch every two hours during the calving season. Ranchers know this and schedule their help accordingly so that they are not overworked, however there are emergencies with livestock that could require being called in on off time hours. Every day is not the same and work hour schedules can change on a moment’s notice from weather factors, along with crops and livestock health.

HB 2548 would require more costs on top of what farmers and ranchers already pay to keep their good help. Farmers and ranchers already pay exceptionally good salaries to their full time help and give them benefits from housing, insurance, and other farm product benefits. Seasonal help can vary from 3, 6 or 9 months depending on the type of operation. They are paid at least minimum wage and most times are paid a higher wage than what most other part-time non-farm employees are paid, as it is hard to get great qualified seasonal help that know how to operate equipment correctly and know what to do when a livestock animal needs help. Please do not pass anymore unnecessary expenses onto farmers and ranchers who struggle to keep up with the rising operational costs of providing food for our state and nation.

Jenny Coelho

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