

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

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in opposition to HB 2548 because it will put many small family farms like mine out of business.

I operate a small family hazelnut farm and this bill could force me out of business. As a small farmer, I operate under tight margins that fluctuate based on international commodity markets that are outside of my control. I made a good profit this year, but two years ago it was extremely tight.

Currently, I do not have any employees, but I was planning to hire at least one full time employee this year to keep up with all my work. However, if this bill passes, I will not be able to do so because I cannot take the risk of a financially devastating frivolous labor lawsuit.

When I have had employees in the past, I always treated them right because I knew each one personally and cared about them. I simply cannot afford to maintain an expensive HR department with lawyers on retainer to handle the frivolous lawsuits that HB 2548 will encourage unscrupulous lawyers to file.

The end result if this bill passes will be less family farms that care about their workers and more giant corporate farms that view their employees as a just another resource to be exploited.