

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

I am writing to strenuously oppose HB 2548. I am the daughter of a first generation Oregon farmer. I hold a Master's in Agricultural Economics from OSU. This bill seems to have been written by people who either have very little understanding of agriculture or by people who seek to consolidate the industry and drive out small family farms and ranches. Oregon ought to be lowering barriers to entry and making it easier for smaller operators to stay in business. But instead, the authors of this poorly written bill would effectuate the opposite.

Farming and ranching are businesses that do not operate like a factory and thus factory labor standards and laws are antithetical to their nature. I urge you to listen to your fellow legislators who farm and ranch. The implications of this bill are dire. Oregon farming and ranching will become a business for the corporations and for the rich. Surely Democrats want to see new, small, and family farms flourish, rather than being gobbled up by an actual corporation or as a tax-write-off.
Vote NO.