

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

I am a farmer and in the Willamette Valley. I oppose House Bill 2548. Oregon already has some of the most regulated worker protection standards in the nation. OSHA and other regulating or auditing agencies are already in place in this state. We do not need a Labor Standards Board in place to help existing agencies nor introduce more regulatory principles over agricultural labor and agricultural business. My farm and nursery employs an average of 50 employees year around. We treat our employees with the utmost respect. We need our employees to be in business. There is no reason for us to treat them unfairly or in un-safe manner. Workforce issues should be handled on a case by case basis. Not dreamt up by a board of appointed officials supported by attorneys and union representatives. These industries do not have the best interest of our local farming communities, rather an agenda to regulate, control and suppress us farmers and our employees. Our employees do not support these efforts either. They are already downtrodden over the agricultural over time bill passed by our state. With nowhere for us to pass on the cost onto as price takers, we have been forced to slash hours and adjust crop types to accommodate for these crippling laws. I do not understand why farmers have a target on their back with the current administration in our state; we need support from our state government so we can thrive, not threats. Please vote no on HB2548. Thank you.