

Submitter: Emily Iverson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2548

Chair Grayber and Members of the Committee,

My name is Emily Iverson, and I am a third-generation farmer from Woodburn, Oregon. I ask you to please vote no on HB 2548.

Oregon already has some of the highest farm labor costs and strictest regulations in the country. We have the 5th highest minimum wage, are one of only seven states requiring ag overtime, and have one of the highest AEWR wage rates in the nation. Farms are already struggling with the increase of costs and stagnant crop prices. This bill will have a negative impact on our business and our staff.

The outcomes for our farm?

- Fewer hours for workers
- Shift to crops with minimal labor needs
- More mechanization
- Our family farm being pushed out

My family once grew food crops like green beans, sweet corn, and squash, but we've had to transition to less labor-intensive crops just to survive. Once-thriving canneries have shut down, and our workforce has shrunk. We used to provide stable, year-round jobs—now, that's no longer sustainable.

Our staff are an essential part of our business, and we work hard to care for them and provide livable wages. The last thing we want is to lose them and to lose our family farm.

This bill will have a negative impact on our community and family businesses. I urge you to vote no on HB 2548.

Thank you.