

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

Chair Grayber and Members of the Labor and Workplace Standards Committee,  
My name is Christina Iverson, a third-generation farmer from Woodburn, Oregon, and I strongly urge you to vote no on HB2548.

Oregon already has some of the highest wages and strictest regulations for farm workers in the country. The state has the 5th highest minimum wage, the 2nd highest Adverse Effect Wage Rate for H-2A workers, and some of the toughest OSHA standards. Recently, the state even tried to implement the strictest farm worker housing regulations. These measures are already in place, and the creation of this board is unnecessary and will only add more expenses to an already stretched budget.

The current restrictions have already resulted in reduced hours for workers, shifts away from food crops, more mechanization, and the growth of larger farms, which puts small family farms like ours at risk. Growing up on a farm, we transitioned to less labor-intensive crops as we faced rising costs and stagnant crop prices. The changes have not only impacted our employees but also the mental well-being of employers. My greatest concern is the direction this state and country are headed in food production. The U.S. went from being an agricultural exporter to a net importer, with a projected agricultural trade deficit of \$39 billion in 2024. Relying on other countries for food is a national security issue, especially after we saw how fragile our supply chains were during the pandemic. This bill would only accelerate these problems. Please vote no on HB 2548. Thank you for considering my testimony.