

Submitter: Megan Scharf
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2548

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Drazan and Pham & members of the House Committee on Rules:

My name is Megan Scharf, and I am a proud fifth-generation farmer in Amity, Oregon. I am writing in strong opposition to HB 2548.

I grew up on the family farm and am proud to still call it my home. Unfortunately, the effects of this bill, if it were to be passed, would put my future on the farm in jeopardy. I am a student at Eastern Oregon University, studying agricultural entrepreneurship and economics, because I want to someday return to my family farm and continue the legacy of those who have come before me.

Growing up on the farm, I spent a lot of time running around, hanging out with our warehouse manager, our mechanic, and pretty much anyone who would take the time to talk to me. These employees are like my family, and I am proud to say that we treat them as such. The labor regulations in the state of Oregon (minimum wage, overtime regulations, etc.) are already putting employers in tough situations, as we simply cannot afford to pay our employees more than we currently are. With that being said, Oregon has one of the highest minimum wages in the country, and we have some of the most extensive workplace protection laws. The passage of this bill, and the creation of this board, are unnecessary and offensive to the many farm owners and employers who are in compliance with the law and treat their employees fairly and equitably.

I strongly urge the members of this committee to vote no on this bill, and to not allow it to move any further. The future of my career, my family's farm, and my family's legacy are all at risk with this bill. Agriculture has been under attack in the state of Oregon for far too long, and it is time to start supporting our farmers rather than putting them out of business.