



32788 Tangent Loop
Tangent, Oregon 97389

Ph: 541-928-8662
Fax: 541-967-7588

May 29, 2025

Chair Bowman, Vice Chairs Drazen and Pham, Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to the -7 amendment to HB 2548.

I work for Boshart Trucking, a family farm in operation for over 40 years that harvests straw in the Willamette Valley. I hire seasonal workers every summer to help with harvest. Most of our employees are high school and college students who are available only to work when they are out of school for the summer-which coincides with our harvest season. Most of our students have little to no work experience when they first come to us. We spend extra time teaching and training these individuals what a job looks like. We jump through the hoops necessary to employ youth in the state. We are already subject to specific reporting as a result. We pay minimum wage to our first time employees and raise wages and teach additional skills every season that an employee returns.

I have significant concerns about the -7 amendment and the base bill.

The -7 amendment proposes to spend taxpayer dollars on a study to be conducted by Portland State University that would focus on labor standards and working conditions of farmworkers.

I am concerned that the bill excludes a number of important partners in the development of a study that are intimately connected to agriculture. Oregon State University, our state's land grant university, has strong connections to and knowledge of all facets of our agricultural sectors, including crop diversity of the industry. The university is excluded from the study. OSU Extension reaches all corners of the state with its extension program supported by the State of Oregon - that reach, and those relationships are not reflected in the proposal. Additionally, the Oregon Department of Agriculture, who producers, like me work with on a regular basis, is neither included, nor consulted in this study.

As a producer, I navigate the complex and robust workforce protections and employment practices that our Legislature, agencies, and federal partners put in place. I am concerned that this study focuses on qualitative data rather than cause and effect data - or the impact of what a workforce standard board would do to Oregon's agricultural industries and the adverse impacts it will have for workers.

It is clear the proponents intend to use this biased study to tee up the policy for the 2027 Legislative Session with a pre-determined outcome already planned.

Producers are price takers, and unlike other industries, costs cannot simply be passed on. Farmers are working on thin-to-sometimes-negative margins, and this type of pre-determined policy outcome will cause crushing regulatory, financial, and liability implications that threaten the viability of Oregon agriculture.

For some, this policy will push them to the edge - diminishing vital resources in our rural communities. Over the last five years, there has been a six percent loss of farmland in Oregon - and 65 percent of farms operating in Oregon saw a net cash loss in 2022.

It is clear that proponents of the bill - both the workforce standard board and the study proposed in the amendment - have not worked with stakeholders for consultation on either element.

I urge you to reject HB 2548 and the -7 amendment.

Hedie Schulte
HR & Safety Manager
Hedie@Bosharttrucking.com