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# A STRONG VOICE FOR OREGON'S WORKERS

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TO: House Committee on Rules  
FROM: Tan Perkins, OR AFL-CIO  
SUBJECT: Yes on HB 2548 -7

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Drazan and Pham, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tan Perkins with the Oregon AFL-CIO, we represent over 300,000 workers and their families and strive to be a voice for all workers in the legislative process. I am writing testimony in strong support of HB 2548 -7 to conduct a study on Oregon farmworkers and learn about their experiences at the workplace.

There are over 72,000 Oregon farmworkers, who put food on our tables and contribute over \$6.8B to our state's economy, yet they earn an average of just \$34,500 annually. Most farmworkers are immigrants from Mexico, Guatemala, and Central America, many of whom speak an Indigenous language. These workers are part of what makes our state great, and yet, they are forgotten, disinvested in, and left out of basic worker protections.

While farmworkers and immigrants face attacks from the federal administration, the workforce standards board that was originally proposed is not moving forward. But the Oregon legislature has the opportunity to learn about the challenges farmworkers are facing through this policy. We owe it to these workers, who pay taxes, and our part of our communities to listen - to understand what a day of work looks like for them, the sacrifices they make.

HB 2548 -7 will help inform the legislature and the general public about the conditions that farmworkers are facing in the workplace. By funding this study, the voices of workers will be the center of policymaking while also including the perspectives of farmers. This is how we create lasting, effective change through listening, research, and engagement.

I urge you to support HB 2548 with the -7 amendment and invest in Oregon's ability to understand and serve the people who feed our state.

Sincerely,  
Tan Perkins, Oregon AFL-CIO