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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES: Chair Bowman, Vice Chairs Drazen and Pham, along with the members of the committee

I oppose -7 amendment to HB 2548

I am a farmer in the Willamette Valley and I oppose HB 2548 and any future amendments attached to this bill.

The main reason being that farmers are price takers, which means we have no control over what we get paid for our crops, the market does. The cost of this policy cannot be passed onto our buyers, which puts us at the mercy of an unelected board dictating what we have to pay for expenses that we can't afford. This **WILL** lead to farmers going out of business and no jobs for Farmers or Farm workers.

Secondly, Farmers/Producers were not a part of original bill or the amendment, along with the two state entities Oregon Department of Agriculture and our Oregon Land Grant University, Oregon State. Both of the above mentioned are in the heart of the Willamette Valley where a big percentage of the natural resource industry is located. Leaving out the two state entities that are part of our leadership in the farming/ranching sector shows bias against Oregon Agriculture by the proponents that are using tax dollars for their agenda.

In addition, Oregon has the strongest workplace protections, and Paid Leave is available to all employees that qualify. HB 2548 and -7 amendment takes the ability away for a farm/ranch to hire seasonal employees and to have at-will employment.

I urge the committee to reject HB 2548 and the -7 amendment for the sake of Agriculture in the State of Oregon. Agriculture needs to be a part of the conversation.

Thank you

Lori Pavlicek
4 B Farms, Inc.