



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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of **Innovation Law Lab** in support of HB 2548 and the -7 amendments to the bill. People make Oregon their home because they dream of what we all want - to live safely, care for their families, and contribute to their communities. Our state is enriched by the different experiences, cultures, and traditions that all of us bring to our neighborhoods and communities across Oregon.

Oregon is more prosperous because there are over 72,000 farmworkers in our state, many who put food on our tables and contribute billions to our state's economy. Many of those workers are immigrants, Indigenous, Latinx, and/or low-income. The average wage for a farmworker in our state is about \$34,500, making it nearly impossible to sustain rent increases, unstable economic shifts, and ability to put food on their own table given the economic uncertainty.

Farmworkers and advocates brought forward a policy to establish a workforce standards board in Oregon. Unfortunately, it is not moving forward this session. While farmworkers and immigrants face attacks from the federal administration, the Oregon Legislature has the opportunity to learn about the challenges farmworkers are facing. The -7 amendments to this bill would require an analysis of farmworker labor conditions. Portland State University (PSU) would conduct the study, and it would include the perspectives of both farmworkers and their employers. Listening, research, and engagement will all contribute to the creation of lasting and effective policy that will advance economic and labor conditions for all.

As the federal government continues to target immigrants and refugees across Oregon and the country, our state has the opportunity to invest in solutions that will protect these communities. Ensuring that we have accurate information about farmworker labor conditions is a good way for Oregon to support the people who help feed our state.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 2548 and the -7 amendments and we urge you to vote yes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isaura Peña". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Isa Peña
Director of Strategy - Innovation Law Lab