



CENTRO

Date: May 29, 2025

To: House Committee on Rules
From: Nansi López, Policy Director for Centro Cultural
Re: Yes on HB 2548 -7

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

My name is Nansi López, and I serve as the Policy Director for Centro Cultural. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 2548-7, which proposes a study on Oregon farmworkers to better understand their workplace experiences.

Centro Cultural is the oldest and longest-serving Latino culturally specific organization in Oregon. ***Founded 50 years ago by 14 migrant families, Centro was established to create a vibrant, cohesive society that values and supports community members from various ethnicities and backgrounds. Since its inception, Centro has served as a safe haven for our local Latino community, low-income migrant farmworkers, immigrant and refugee communities, and all who seek our assistance.*** Our mission is to be a home for Latino cultures, focusing on the needs of our diverse community by promoting personal growth and empowerment. We work to empower Latino families, low-income migrant farmworkers, and immigrant refugee communities by removing barriers, fostering well-being, and building the power necessary for achieving economic prosperity. Centro centers the experiences of those most affected in our communities, and we are committed to reducing barriers at every level of our work.

Centro Cultural leads with its past, present, and future when supporting Oregon farmworkers. As an organization founded by farmworkers, we are dedicated to bridging the gaps that these workers face in the workforce. Farmworkers are the backbone of Oregon's agricultural economy, which thrives largely due to their robust labor force. Therefore, we support efforts aimed at protecting Oregon farmworkers.

We urge committee members to remember Oregon's past and future by supporting our farmworkers. Make a bold statement by voting YES on HB 2548-7, which funds a study through Portland State University. This vote will empower farmworkers, giving them a voice and an opportunity to share their experience to better inform our legislature and future policy. Investments like these are vital for making Oregon a thriving state because when we prioritize equity, everyone can succeed.



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The time is NOW to support our most vulnerable workers in Oregon. Farmers rely on the labor of farmworkers, and supporting this legislation will help us better understand the challenges and barriers they face daily.

Support HB 2548-7 to continue uplifting the "good fight" that Cesar Chavez embarked on decades ago, along with his monumental contributions to American history. Please vote YES on HB 2548-7 and stand by both farmworkers and farmers to pave the way for prosperity for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Nansi López
Policy Director
Centro Cultural