

My name is Fiona Burgess, and I am a resident of Portland who is deeply concerned with the conditions my food is produced under. I am aware of the physically strenuous, underpaid and unacknowledged labor that goes into bringing potatoes into my pantry, and I am aware that the Federal Labor Standards Act was written to exclude farm workers (who were then often Black and are now often Latin American immigrants) from the basic labor protections the rest of us enjoy in order to maintain economic control over the already-vulnerable people who are crucial to maintaining our food supply chain. Farm workers are among the lowest paid people in the United States (making typically \$15-17k a year with no benefits), and they are currently putting their lives on the line by continuing to work in a pandemic.

Passing HB 2358 is the bare minimum first step we can take to lift agricultural workers out of second class citizen status. All these concerned small farm owners coming out of the woodwork to say that this will make their business unsustainable are just admitting that their business model is dependent on squeezing as much unpaid labor as they can from migrant workers who can barely feed their families-- there was nothing sustainable about their business in the first place. Please support HB 2358 and take all the steps necessary to write and enact more legislation to ensure that the people who keep us fed are provided the same basic needs as the rest of us (a minimum wage, collective bargaining rights, health insurance, retirement funds, holiday pay, etc.).