

My name is Colin Cole and I am a PhD candidate in Education at Oregon State University. I am writing in support of HB 2358. There is no doubt that this is long overdue. It is time to end the dehumanization and exploitation of agricultural workers in Oregon. It was wrong to exclude agricultural and domestic workers from the National Labor Relations Act 1938, and it is still wrong today.

In "The Echoes of Slavery: Recognizing the Racist Origins of the Agricultural and Domestic Worker Exclusion from the National Labor Relations Act", law profesor Juan F. Perea highlights the racist and discriminatory intent behind the original decision. He states that "As a result of Section 152(3), Latino farm and domestic workers languish in shocking poverty, powerless to improve their economic condition and influence through collective action. Given that Section 152(3) reproduces the same debilitating effects upon Latinos as upon blacks in an earlier era, the statute should be held unconstitutional or repealed."

You now have the opportunity to finally rectify what has been decades of exploitation and dehumanization of those that work daily to feed you and your children. This one decision will not right all the wrongs within the industry, but it is one necessary step in the right direction. Oregon is better than this. No matter where you come from, now matter what you do for work, we must ensure that workers are compensated accordingly for their time, energy, and effort. For generations, the agricultural industry has benefited from the unpaid labor of agricultural workers. It is 2021... there are no more excuses.

Thank you for your time.

Colin Cole