

Submitter: Brent Martin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2548

My name is Brent Martin and I own Nelmar Farming Co. I urge you to vote NO on HB 2548.

Oregon already has some of the highest labor costs in the country, and after several tough years, I can't afford more regulations and wage increases.

This bill would give unelected officials the power to set wages and safety rules that go far beyond current protections, adding more regulatory burden to small farms like mine.

HB 2548 unfairly targets agriculture by taking away at-will employment, meaning I wouldn't be able to make necessary staffing decisions without the risk of costly lawsuits.

I don't believe that farms should be forced to keep employees who may not meet performance expectations or adapt to the demands of the job. All other sectors in Oregon would be at-will, but farms—whose employment needs are impacted by weather, yields, trade, market conditions, pests, diseases, etc.—would not.

This bill is not equitable and it will likely result in job loss, not job security.

This bill doesn't help workers or consumers; it just makes farming harder and more expensive.

I urge you to vote no to protect our farms and jobs.