

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

My name is Bill Royle, I run Union Point Custom Feeds, an Oregon-based family-owned mill. Union Point Custom Feeds opposes this bill.

HB 2548's joint liability rule means I could get sued for labor violations committed by farms I've never even met. It is supposed to be a good thing to buy ingredients from local growers. How am I supposed to know if their contractors screwed up overtime rules or paperwork? I don't manage their operations – I'm busy running our business! This bill turns suppliers like me into babysitters for other businesses' HR problems. I can't just go out and talk to their employees to ensure that I'm not going to get sued. This bill is flawed in a lot of ways and ultimately makes me question whether a business like ours is still welcome here.

As well, the bill's vague terms leave me guessing what's legal. If my driver drops off feed at a farm, does that make him an "agricultural worker" now? Can I fire someone for stealing without a "progressive discipline system"? I shouldn't need a \$500/hr lawyer to run a rural business. Oregon's farms and feed mills are already struggling. Pass this, and you're handing Treasure Valley, Idaho yet another talking point as to why we should be moving our mill there, and I'm listening more and more.

Thank you,
Bill Royle
Union Point Custom Feeds