

Submitter: Barbara Foulke

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2548

My name is Barbara Foulke and I grow hazelnuts

Please oppose HB 2548.

Oregon already has some of the highest labor costs in the country. Hazelnut growers don't get to set prices for our crop, so there is no way to recover the increased costs passed by the new governing Board.

Farm workers are already protected by very strong workplace regulations. And Oregon OSHA has one of the highest worksite inspection rates and has adopted some of the most expansive workplace protections in the country.

HB 2548 gives unelected bureaucrats the power to set wages and safety rules that go far beyond current protections, adding more regulatory and cost burdens to local farms, but not to other industries. There is no accountability for the decisions the Board makes, even if their decisions close farms or result in layoffs.