

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

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. I urge you to vote no on HB 2548 to protect Oregon hazelnut producers and the jobs we currently provide.

Farm workers are currently protected by strong workplace regulations in Oregon. HB 2548 takes away our right to manage our farms and adds to regulatory and cost burdens at a time farmers cannot take any more pain. We are suffering from higher labor costs, overtime costs, lack of labor due to immigration policy, higher fertilizer and fuel costs, increased environmental damage from heat events and the new filbert blight threatening our crops, and now likely retaliatory tariffs which will reduce demand and prices. I am strongly opposed to the proposal in HB 2548 that eliminates at-will employment for farmers. At-will employment is the law in nearly every state; HB 2548 carves out farms and puts employers at risk for costly claims for making necessary staffing decisions.