

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

My name is Gabrielle Jensen and my sister and I co-own J3 Farms Inc. in Jefferson, Oregon. We raise peppermint, green beans, garlic, grass seed, corn, and hazelnuts.

We strongly OPPOSE HB 2548 for many reasons, but mainly because it threatens FOOD production from the previous mentioned crops.

As the next generation, it is becoming more and more difficult for us to own and operate a farming business in Oregon due to needless and on-going regulation targeted at our workforce. Several years ago, Oregon thought it would be a good idea to remove the Ag exemption for over-time pay, now farm workers are working less hours, making less money, and are contributing less to Oregon economy. HB 2548 will negatively impact workers, producers and consumers, even more than the removal of Ag over-time pay exemption has.

We oppose this bill because it eliminates at-will employment for farm owners. This bill unfairly targets Agriculture exclusively, and will likely result in negative economic consequences for Oregon. This bill is stripping our rights as business owners, who contribute much to Oregon's economic success. At-will employment is the law in nearly every state, please vote NO on HB 2548 to protect Oregon's farmers.