Submitter: Hedie Schulte

On Behalf Of: Boshart Trucking

Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace

Standards

Measure, Appointment or

Topic:

HB2548

Oregon currently has in place significant protections ensuring that workers are treated fairly. Oregon BOLI currently protects employment rights. Agriculture is currently covered by the minimum wage system in the state and is required to maintain the same rest break schedules as other industries. Agriculture is currently covered by a plethora of health and safety requirements. It is inefficient and wasteful of taxpayer resources to add extra layers of oversight to individual industries.

People often choose agriculture as their profession because they enjoy the flexibility and freedom of working outside. Agriculture is known to be a seasonal enterprise, with seasonal labor needed during peak harvest times. People seeking year-round employment in this industry know when they are hired that there are times of the year when the pace will be faster than others (harvest). People seeking seasonal employment know that their employment is for a limited time during the year. They choose to work during this time.

Employees are free to make the choice to choose another type of job if they do not like the seasonality of agriculture. Agriculture is simply not like an office job. It is flexible with the seasons. Aiming to regulate the industry to force the removal of seasonal factors is not reasonable. You cannot force a strawberry to grow in the winter just to make staffing more predictable.