

Submitter: LOUANNE eTZEL
On Behalf Of: hb 2548
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2548

i GREW UP ON A FARM OF 4 GENERATIONS AND MARRIED INTO A CENTURY FARM. OUR TWO BOYS CURRENTLY MAKE IT A 5TH GENERATION FARM. CURRENTLY WE FARM 3000 ACRES WITH OUR 2 SONS. WE PAY FOR 3 FAMILIES WITH WHAT WE MAKE ON OUR FARM. WE ONLY HIRE FULL TIME ON A YEAR BASIS THE OTHER HELP IS HIRED DURING THE HARVEST MONTHS, JUNE UNTIL EARLY SEPT.EMBER. MOST OF THE SEASONAL WORKERS ARE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO ARE WORKING TO HELP PAY THEIR TUITION TO SCHOOL.

IT IS NOT ONLY A SEASONAL JOB IT IS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE. WE WISH TO VOICE WE DO NOT NEED ANY MORE RULES BY GOVERNMENT ON HOW TO FARM OUR LAND AND CROPS. IN THE DAYS WHEN I WAS A CHILD WE COULD GO OUT AND HAND PICK THE CROPS FOR HARVEST. IT WAS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE AND TAUGHT US WORK ETHIC ALONG WITH OUR PARENTS GUIDANCE. THAT WAS ABOLISHED THROUGH THE CHILD LABOR LAWS. WE ABIDED BY THAT BUT IT WAS DIFFICULT AND SAD FOR MANY FAMILIES. WHY DENY CHILDREN GETTING JOBS TO HELP THEIR FAMILIES PAY FOR THEIR SCHOOLING AND LIVELIHOOD?

IF THIS MEASURE BECOMES A LAW MANY SMALL FARMERS WILL HAVE DIFFICULTIES PAYING FOR ALL THE HELP THEY NEED TO COMPLETE HARVEST. MOST FARMERS DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH WORK YEAR ROUND NOR CAN AFFORD SEASONAL WORKERS TO BE FULL TIME.

AGRICULTURE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT TO CONTINUE AS FAMILY FARMS AND NOT BIG CORPORATE INDUSTRIES. PLEASE VOTE NO ON HOUSE BILL 2548!

THANKS.