

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

I am writing to oppose this legislation, which is a poorly masked attempt by unions to take over small family farms. I order meat regularly from two small family farms, and this legislation would likely put them out of business. That would force me to purchase meat from a grocery store, which would severely limit what I could purchase since I have severe food allergies and cannot eat meat that is grain-finished. So no more chicken for me since even organic chicken is fed corn. The producer I buy from does not use food for their poultry that contains soy, wheat, or corn. They also do not use antibiotics on their animals unless they require it to resolve an infection. Factory farms do this regularly and have likely contributed to my severe antibiotic allergies as well. To threaten small farmers livelihoods strikes me as distinctly anti-Oregonian. Did Portland not so long ago bill itself as a destination city in the farm-to-table movement? I seem to remember multiple episodes of Portlandia that focused on their claims almost exclusively. If you allow this union takeover of small farms, we will lose a key part of what made the Portland, and larger Oregon, food ecosystem a worldwide destination. We will sacrifice quality and end up with factory farms run by a union conglomerate that produces second-rate products that cost a premium to purchase. I ask you to oppose this measure and protect our small farms, their animals and the reputation of Oregon on the culinary world stage.