

Submitter: Rex Watkins
On Behalf Of: hard-working Oregonians
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2548

HB 2548 is emblematic of the current crop of legislation (pun intended) that will reduce, reorganize, and remove agriculture as an industry (those dirty farmers!) from the State of Oregon and put all the products of our fruitful soil and hard work into the control of people who claim to know better but have yet to demonstrate any real experience in the matter. Add in legislation like the phase-out of our powerful diesel-powered equipment, XXL-sized buffers for any body of water, or the reporting and control of soil amendments and pretty soon it looks like the farmers can rent the land they own from the State of Oregon so long as the farmer only does exactly what the State wants. What is the sense? Why would farmers continue except for their love of the land and the need to feel productive? How about this? Begin removing roadblocks to production and let the free people of Oregon determine their futures without the ever-present over-protection of the State. I think a Governor in Idaho said it best, "Regulation strangles innovation". Something to consider here in Oregon.