

TO: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards

FROM: Krystal Abrams

SUBJECT: Yes on HB 2548

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Muñoz, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Krystal Abrams, and I live in Eugene, Oregon. I am writing today in strong support of HB 2548 to establish a Farmworker Standards Board in Oregon!

Farmworkers are the backbone of our state's agricultural economy, yet they are still some of the most underrepresented and unprotected workers. They work hard through extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and hazardous conditions to put food on our tables, yet their wages and protections remain inadequate. It is unacceptable that the very people who sustain us struggle to make ends meet and lack a true voice in shaping their working conditions.

Oregon can and should do better! **We have over 72,000 farmworkers, contributing billions to our economy**, yet the reality for many of them is grueling work for wages that barely cover the cost of living. These workers, many of whom are immigrants and Indigenous language speakers, deserve more than our gratitude; they deserve real policy solutions that prioritize their rights and safety!

A Farmworker Standards Board would finally give them a seat at the table, ensuring fair wages, safe working conditions, and real accountability in an industry that has historically exploited its workforce. States and cities across the country have shown that worker standards boards lead to meaningful change, giving workers the power to advocate for themselves while creating a more just and sustainable agricultural industry.

I urge you to stand with Oregon's farmworkers by voting **YES on HB 2548**. It's time we recognize their labor not just in words, but in policy that uplifts and protects the people who feed us!

Sincerely,

Krystal Abrams