

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

Chairperson, members of the committee, and fellow Oregonians,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Jennifer Brusa, and I am here to strongly oppose House Bill 2548. This bill, if enacted, would threaten the survival of family farms and ranches and accelerate job loss across Oregon.

Farmers in Oregon are already burdened by extensive regulations, rising costs, and economic uncertainty. House Bill 2548 will only add to these challenges, driving more farms and agricultural businesses to close or relocate out of state. Oregon's agricultural industry cannot sustain additional financial and regulatory pressure without significant consequences for rural communities and food production.

House Bill 2548 creates an unnecessary bureaucratic body with no knowledge of agriculture to impose increased regulations on Oregon farms at least every two years. These regulations include setting higher minimum wages, implementing new work schedule requirements, establishing additional workplace health and safety mandates, and eliminating at-will employment for agricultural workers. This bill also creates a private right of action against farm employers, exposing them to costly and bogus litigation.

This legislation would make it so expensive and risky to employ people that many farms would have no choice but to reduce their operations, lay off employees, or sell to the highest bidder. Family farms and ranches, the backbone of Oregon's agricultural economy, would be disproportionately affected, accelerating job losses and economic instability.

At a time when family farms are struggling to stay afloat, the Legislature should focus on policies that support agricultural sustainability rather than imposing punitive and unnecessary burdens. For these reasons, I urge you to reject House Bill 2548 and work toward solutions that promote economic stability and fairness for Oregon's farming community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Brusa

