

March 11, 2025

To Whom it May Concern:

I received an action alert on HB2548 while traveling in the midwest to promote our product. Just like that I am forced to stop and defend my family, my farm and my employees. I trust my employees in my absence and they trust the work that I do to better the lives of all of us involved. Our family farm has worked very hard to hire and retain excellent employees that trust us as well as us placing great trust in them. HB2548 will erode that trust by its suggestive notions that Oregon farms, such as ours are not safe, are not paying competitively and simply that employers do not have their backs. This is not true. Our farm and my farming peers rely heavily on our labor force and work hard to reciprocate our respect for them by providing a safe place to work, competitive pay and caring about them and their families.

The governing board to be created by HB2548 and authority that it will have without representation from actual farms is scary for agriculture in this state. It appears that this bill has no regard for the safety standards and wage standards already in place. Yes, Oregon already has standards in place for farm employees. Why do we need redundancy?

Why is agriculture being singled out here? HB2548 would make agriculture the only industry in Oregon no longer at will hiring and firing. This is unfair and will no doubt force employers to move quickly to automation and other ways to reduce labor. This will not be a win for farm workers, but it will be the reality. HB2548 makes no sense.

Please vote down HB2548

David Goracke