

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

Dear Members of the Committee, my name is Orin Nusbaum. I'm a 6th generation farmer from Benton County. We raise multiple crops with grass seed being our main focus. I'm writing to urge you to oppose HB 2548.

I'm concerned about the potential overreach by an unelected board with authority to make sweeping changes to labor rules for an industry that is already struggling to stay competitive in our markets while minimum wage continues to rise at a much higher rate than the price of our commodities. The loss of at-will employment would diminish our ability to terminate less productive or problem employees.

I feel that HB2548 would damage the relationship between employee and employer. For over 40 years, many of our seasonal employees who started their working lives with us and have moved on to full-time careers have maintained a relationship with us and referred to our farm as "the best place they ever worked".

We like to be a part of our community and offer jobs to circulate wealth through the area, but as labor restrictions become more onerous and cost of labor becomes increasingly expensive, we are forced to automate farm tasks in order to reduce our exposure. This is a loss for rural communities who depend on farm workers to patronize local businesses.

Finally, I feel that the laws and policies already in place are adequate and the passage of HB2548 would cause unnecessary duplication and confusion. Oregon farms are already struggling with low commodity pricing, the passage of this bill could push many of us to financial ruin. Please oppose this legislation. Thank you for your time.