

ED DIEHL
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 17
MARION/LINN



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 12, 2025

House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards

Testimony in Opposition to HB 2548

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 2548.

This is one of the biggest threats to agriculture in the state of Oregon that I have ever seen.

This sweeping, one-size-fits-all mandate could force many farms and ranches out of business. This legislation disregards the significant protections already in place for farmworkers and transfers critical decisions about staffing, wages, benefits, and training to an unelected, unaccountable, bureaucratic body.

HB 2548 does not help the workers. This bill will result in employee reductions. Farmers have already spent thousands of dollars to automate instead of hiring new employees and this bill will accelerate that. Farmers have also eliminated crops that take a lot of workers. As a result, those crops are grown and harvested in other states or countries that don't have our regulations.

This board will have no accountability for the decisions they make, even if their decisions close farms and cause the employees they want to protect to become unemployed.

I strongly urge a "No" vote on HB 2548.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Diehl".

Representative Ed Diehl
House District 17