

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

Dear House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards,

Thank you for taking public testimony for HB 2548 and for voting to OPPOSE HB 2548.

I am a taxpaying Oregonian of over 16 years and started my family here. We support several local Oregonian farmers through CSAs, herd shares, and markets and have done so for years. In my experience the farmers and workers are extremely happy despite what may seem like long hours and difficult work environments to those that work desk jobs or live in cities. The reality is they love what they do and their primary wish is to be left alone to succeed as their ability is able.

Which begs the question - why is a bill to centralize regulations to an unelected bureaucracy even a discussion? Small farmers often live on thin margins and having more regulations will only add to their burden while larger or corporate farms are better able to manage the increased cost. Does adding regulatory burden help reduce prices for the average Oregonian or is it a functional cost increase which impacts the poorest the hardest? Does adding regulatory burden locally make home grown, short and low energy shipping supply chains less competitive, especially in light of potential national tariffs on imported agricultural products? Funding the new agency will also require increased taxes which impacts all Oregonians. Finally it may make farming sufficiently difficult that smaller farmers feel compelled to sell their land. And perhaps this the ultimate end goal as there are deep pockets that would like to continue buying relatively inexpensive farmland for data centers, solar farms, etc... or consolidate farms into larger corporate structures. Another goal may to remove choice from the farmers and their end consumers as to how their produce and animals are raised, but supports larger efforts to sell products to all farmers which is easier to do if a regulatory body requires it.

I thank the committee in advance for voting against HB 2548.

Respectfully.