

Submitter: Dennis Patrick Sheehy
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2548

HB 2548 should be rejected by the legislature for a number of reasons that include:

1. There is no demonstrated need for the board.
2. Establishing the board would be a duplicative process to existing standards and regulations.
3. Costs incurred by farmers and ranchers as a result of board activities would increase their financial and production risk.
4. Progressive discipline detrimentally affects stability of the relationship and creates antagonism between employees and employers. (i.e., a progressive discipline for a single employee creates antagonism between employees and employers, and in some circumstances, can directly affect the safety of the employee, other employees, and the employer if the activity by the employee creates safety hazards).
5. The term "agriculture" as defined in the bill covers all components of the agriculture sector. Proposed activities of the board are not applicable to the entire sector; agriculture should be redefined and applied only to sub-sectors for which it might possibly apply.
6. Continually increasing regulations and costs that have to be assumed by employers in the agricultural sector will ultimately lead to more consolidation of agriculture operations and investment in technological innovations that decrease employment opportunity for unskilled labor.

In summary, the board appears to have no real purpose, appears to be duplicative, and negatively affects the relationship between employees and employers.