

# BOSSCO

TRADING LLC

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March 12, 2025

**RE: HB 2548: Relating to Workforce Standards Board Mandate.**

To the House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards:

My name is Alexis Jacobson, and I am the International Accounts Manager at BOSSCO Trading LLC. We are a grass straw and hay exporter out of the Willamette Valley, and we containerize our agricultural goods here for export to beef and dairy farms across Japan and Korea. Our product relies heavily upon agricultural labor to efficiently and effectively move our straw from the fields to containers overseas. Today, I urge you to **oppose HB 2548.**

We oppose HB 2548 as its provisions would significantly increase the costs for the farms we work with that grow grass for seed and that bale grass straw for our export. Every increased cost for our farmers is an added cost we must ask our overseas customers to bear. Our farms are already reeling in labor costs as minimum wage increases and overtime costs add up year after year.

The language in HB 2548 is extremely concerning. We worry it will make it too expensive, too risky, and too difficult for farmers to hire workers. Many farms and other agricultural businesses may then look to reduce their footprint in Oregon as a result should this bill continue to move through the legislature.

I strongly urge you to keep this in mind: there is not one agricultural commodity produced in America that cannot be produced elsewhere. Forage (hay and straw) is the number one containerized export out of the US West Coast, including our own Port of Portland. We are a high-volume commodity, but we are not a high-value commodity. Each increased cost for our industry edges us out of a global market, heightening the trade deficit between our imported goods and exported goods.

Sincerely,



**Alexis Jacobson**  
BOSSCO Trading LLC  
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