

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

My name is Calvin Smith,

I have been farming for 47 years.

To read that farm workers feel disrespected is sad. We have always welcomed good employees with open arms and did all that we could to help them get on their feet when arriving in Oregon. We housed them, helped them buy their own homes, offered meals and babysitting when needed. Reading through testimonies sound like there is a problem with farm labor contractors not making it clear enough what work will be performed, for how long and for how much. I thought when people signed up with contractors they know they will be moving to various locations to perform work, and that work does depend on weather for both the climate one is to be working in and when the crops will be ready to work is greatly based on weather. The vast majority of farm employers do a great job training employees and are open to answering questions. I have many former employees who stay in touch even after my retirement. To add more regulations-many duplicating what is already established-well, seems like bureaucracy at it's best. You don't need more rules, you need to enforce what you have already. Anybody can claim they have been emotionally damaged. If you really have a problem, there are resources to address that. This opens up a quick finger point and guaranteed payout for people who learn to abuse the system. Great for lawyers and a few bad actors. Boo for Oregon's hard working employees and employers who do a great job making working in agriculture a good experience.

I encourage you to stop and think about the far reaching consequences of this bill. Are there some good points to work on moving forward, yes, there is always room for improvement. You are taking this a bit too far. Please oppose this bill and look for ways to improve Oregon for both employees and employers.