



Dr. Thủy Trần
State Representative
House District 45

TO: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room 453
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Strong Support for HB 2548 -2 – Establishing the Farmworker Standards Board

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Elmer, Vice-Chair Muñoz, and Committee Members,

My name is Thủy Trần, and I have the honor of representing House District 45, which includes parts of Northeast and Southeast Portland, Maywood Park, Parkrose, Argay Terrace, Montavilla, and Cully. As an immigrant who grew up in a low-income household, I know firsthand the challenges that many working families face—especially those in immigrant communities.

My experiences have shaped my dedication to advocating for policies that promote equity, opportunity, and dignity for all Oregonians. For nearly three decades, I have owned and operated Rose City Vision, providing essential eye care to families in Northeast Portland. In addition, I serve as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Oregon Air National Guard and previously sat on the Parkrose School Board. These roles have strengthened my understanding of the importance of fair labor standards, access to quality services, and community-driven policy solutions.

It is with this perspective that I strongly support HB 2548 -2, which proposes the creation of a Farmworker Standards Board in Oregon. This bill is not merely about policy—it is a statement of our values. It is a commitment to ensuring that the very individuals who sustain our state's agricultural industry are treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.

The Urgent Need for HB 2548 -2 Now

Oregon's farmworkers are the backbone of an agricultural sector that generates over \$6.8 billion¹ annually for our economy. Yet, despite their essential contributions, many farmworkers face low wages, unsafe conditions, and insufficient protections. With farm revenues on the rise, it is time we ensure that the hands that harvest our food are not left empty.

By establishing a Farmworker Standards Board, this bill empowers both workers and employers to collaboratively determine fair wages, safe working conditions, and necessary training protocols. It is a proactive step to correct historic exclusions, elevate worker protections, and foster a more sustainable and equitable agricultural industry.

¹ Legislative Policy and Research Office, February 2025 Memorandum, pg., 11.

Economic and Social Justice Imperative

Farmworkers are the backbone of an industry that contributes over \$6.8 billion² annually to Oregon's economy, yet many earn significantly below the living wage. HB 2548 -2 addresses these disparities by fostering an environment where farmworker voices are not only heard but are instrumental in shaping industry standards. This legislation is a stride towards rectifying the injustices faced by a workforce predominantly composed of Latino and immigrant laborers, aligning with Oregon's values of fairness and equity.

Commitment to Collaborative Governance

The Farmworker Standards Board is designed as a balanced forum that respects the voices of both employers and employees, ensuring that all stakeholders can contribute to the rule-making process. This approach not only enhances compliance and effectiveness but also ensures that the standards developed are practical, equitable, and tailored to the unique needs of Oregon's agricultural sector.

Conclusion

Oregon has long been a leader in progressive labor policies, and HB 2548 -2 continues that legacy. As we navigate the challenges of farm consolidation, climate change, and workforce sustainability, it is imperative that we proactively support the people who keep our agricultural economy thriving.

I urge you to support HB 2548 -2 and take a stand for the rights, safety, and dignity of Oregon's farmworkers. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to working together to ensure a stronger, fairer future for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Thủy Trần
State Representative
House District 45

² Legislative Policy and Research Office, February 2025 Memorandum, pg., 11.