

March 11, 2025

Chair Grayber, Vice Chairs Elmer and Muñoz, and Members of the House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of **Innovation Law Lab** in support of HB 2548 to create a Farmworker Standards Board in Oregon. Innovation Law Lab is an organization that leverages technology, advocacy and law to advance immigrant and refugee justice.

Oregon is more prosperous because there are over 72,000 farmworkers in our state. They put food on our tables and contribute over \$6.4B to our state's economy. Many of those workers are immigrants, Indigenous, or Latinx and low-income. Prioritizing workforce standards to the members of our communities who are most impacted is key to ensuring we have a strong workforce and protections.

HB 2548 will create Oregon's Farmworker Standards Board and will give historically excluded workers their voice in setting industry standards with real enforcement power and accountability. The board will ensure access to fair wages, safe conditions, and protection from retaliation.

Cities and states across the country have proven that workforce standards boards work. These boards bring workers together with industry and public representatives to set meaningful standards, with real enforcement power to ensure accountability. From New York's farm laborers to Minnesota's nursing home staff to Seattle's domestic workers, these boards give workers the voice and protections they deserve and give our communities the essential food we need.

As an immigrant justice organization, we firmly believe all Oregonians regardless of their immigration status should have fair and safe working conditions so that all Oregon families can thrive.

The creation of a Farmworker Standards Board will provide workers a seat at the table and critical protections to Oregon farmworkers. **We strongly urge your support of HB 2548.**

Isa Peña
Director of Strategy
Innovation Law Lab