



To: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards
From: Oregon Education Association
Re: Yes on HB 2548 -2

Members of the Committee,

There are over 72,000 Oregon farmworkers, who put food on our tables and contribute over \$6.8B to our state's economy, yet they experience poor working conditions and earn an average of just \$34,500 annually. Most farmworkers are immigrants from Mexico, Guatemala, and Central America, many of whom speak an Indigenous language.

HB 2548 -2 will give historically excluded workers their first 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 a union, OEA cares deeply about workers' rights. We also care about the well-being of our students. Farmworkers are essential to feeding families and thus feeding children. The workers who fuel our students, our other workers, and our entire community should have the right to have a say in setting standards for their industry.

OEA strongly urges you to vote YES on HB 2548 -2 to create a Farmworker Standards Board.