

Submitter: Jacquelin Muro
On Behalf Of: Self
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2548

DON'T BITE THE HAND THAT FEEDS YOU!!

Oregon Farms are not a corporate office!

Oregon's House Bill 2548 sounds noble on the surface—establishing an Agricultural Workforce Labor Standards Board to enforce wage floors, benefits, training, and “just cause” firing protections for farmworkers. But dig a little deeper, and it's a classic case of good intentions paving a road to economic havoc. Small family farms, already battered by unpredictable trade policies, immigration enforcement swings, and razor-thin margins, don't need another layer of bureaucratic red tape. These aren't faceless conglomerates with deep pockets; they're Oregonians scraping by, often one bad harvest away from folding. Slapping them with mandates like these doesn't empower workers—it risks breaking the backbone of the state's agricultural heritage. And when the dust settles, consumers will feel the pinch as grocery prices climb to offset the added costs.

The ripple effects of HB 2548 should give every Oregonian pause. Higher labor costs and compliance burdens don't just vanish into thin air—they get passed down the line, landing squarely on your plate. From milk to potatoes to beef, anything grown or raised in Oregon's fertile fields will carry a heftier price tag. For families already stretched thin by inflation, this isn't just an inconvenience—it's a gut punch. Worse, small farms might not survive the squeeze, leaving the door wide open for corporate agribusiness to swoop in. Picture it: fewer local growers, more industrial sprawl, and a countryside dotted with compliance officers instead of farmers. Salem's fix for farmworkers could end up costing Oregon its soul—and your wallet—without delivering the promised uplift.

The “Just Cause” clause is not and should not be applicable to family farms!

Don't bite the hand that feeds you!

Vote NO on HB 2548