

## **HB 2548 Testimony - Brandon Hazenberg**

Chair Grayber, Members of the Committee,

I'm Brandon Hazenberg, a dairy farmer from St. Paul, Oregon and member of the Oregon Dairy Farmers Association. We oppose HB 2548

I'm a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation dairy farmer and we employ 45 year-round employees and produce over 28,000 gallons of milk daily for the Lucerne Brand Label at Safeway. We also have an extensive partnership with Starbucks, with a focus on Social Responsibility. We have grown our business with the people of Oregon for 60 plus years. Our goal is to continue to provide locally sourced, affordable and high-quality dairy products to the people of Portland, Salem and the rest of the Valley well into the future.

For the record, to my knowledge, no one from the legislature here in Salem has ever interviewed any of our employees for any proposed bills in the past. This needs to be about the farm workers. They are not collectively having their voices heard. Only a portion are getting the opportunity to speak. I find that fascinating that such a large local Ag business would not ever have single staffer or assistant ask to speak with our workers or request information in the past 10 years regarding so called Ag Labor.

I firmly believe that if you have a true collection of data, if farm workers feel like the current model is working for them it would be an overwhelming yes. Are there outliers, sure, but that is why we already have bevy of laws and agencies to audit and oversee all of Ag. In dairy we have over 25 different yearly audits and inspections. Farm workers do not support a bill like this just like they didn't like the Ag overtime bill.

We are entering an era where you, the legislature, is unfortunately negatively affecting a large number of farmers financially. It needs to be said and understood on your end. We cannot sustain the onslaught on anti-Ag and anti-Business bills year after year. Farmers are hurting financially, and bad bills are taking the wind out of the sails of many who do not want to stand up and fight. They are too tired to go on.

We grow and produce food for all of our neighbors, regardless of political affiliation. You as legislators are responsible for representing all of your constituents, regardless of who they voted for. If you were to put this to your constituents, I cannot believe they would be in favor of putting farmers at risk of losing their businesses, which will be the end result, regardless of intention. It happens every year.

You, the legislature, are forcing consolidation, all while saying consolidation is bad and we need more small family farms. As things consolidate, this often times means that your food and products are being moved out of the Willamette Valley and trucked back into the metro which incrementally increases our carbon footprint. This body, if it was serious, would understand we should be doing everything in your power to keep Ag alive and strong here in our state. This will keep our carbon footprint as small as possible as we strive to meet Climate Goals.

It's time to step up and say....It is not the intention of a bill that matters, it's the results of the bill.

I believe this bill will begin to deteriorate the relationship between farmers and their employees, force consolidation, hit customers with price increases at the supermarket and give too much power to a single group of unelected individuals. Stick to the current system.

Please vote NO on HB 2548

You are all welcome to come tour our farm and meet with our employees.