



# CENTRO

To: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards  
From: Nansi López, Policy Director for Centro Cultural  
Re: Support for HB 2548  
Date: 3/12/2025

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Muñoz, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nansi López, Policy Director for Centro Cultural. I am writing to strongly support HB 2548, to create a Farmworker Standards Board in Oregon.

Centro was founded 50 years ago by 14 migrant families who believed in creating a vibrant and cohesive society that is shared, valued, and open for community members from different ethnicities and backgrounds. Since then, Centro has served as a safe place for our local Latino community, low-income migrant farmworkers, immigrant refugee communities, and all who come to our doors. Since our founders decided to begin this journey in 1972, Centro has continued to grow to ensure our community members thrive, working with regional, state, county, and city-wide agencies to advocate for more resources and equitable systems change to support communities of color.

Centro provides vital support to numerous farmworkers throughout Washington County. We offer assistance with rental payments, healthcare, utility bills, legal services, and emergency funding, particularly when current systems fail to adequately support these essential workers. These services are especially important given the poor working conditions and lack of support to many farmworkers. By supporting HB 2548 to establish a Farmworker Standards Board, we can help ensure that farmworkers have a voice to advocate for fair wages and safe working conditions. It is essential that every worker in Oregon, including farmworkers, feel supported and valued for their hard work, dedication, and contributions to the state's robust economy, and that starts by including them in issues that impact them on a daily basis.

Today, we are reminded about our past, present, and future when supporting Oregon farmworkers. As an organization founded by farmworkers, Centro is committed to bridging the gaps that farmworkers face in the workforce. Farmworkers are the backbone of Oregon and across the nation. Oregon has a strong agricultural economy,



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and it's because we have a strong labor force, which is why we support any efforts that protect Oregon farmworkers.

We ask that committee members remember Oregon's past, present, and future by supporting Oregon farmworkers. Make a bold statement by strongly supporting farmworkers and voting YES on HB 2548 to create a Farmworker Standards Board and give farmworkers the ability to set standards for the industry. Support HB 2548 to continue uplifting the "good fight" that the great Cesar Chavez embarked on decades ago, especially this month that honors him and his contributions to our American history.

*Solicitamos a los miembros del comité que recuerden el pasado, el presente y el futuro de Oregón apoyando a los trabajadores agrícolas de Oregón. Den un paso adelante apoyando firmemente a los trabajadores agrícolas y votando Sí a HB 2548 para crear la Mesa Estatal para los Trabajadores Agrícolas y otorgarles la capacidad de establecer estándares para la industria. Apoyen HB 2548 para continuar impulsando la "buena lucha" que el gran César Chávez emprendió hace décadas, especialmente este mes que lo honra a él y a sus contribuciones a la historia estadounidense.*

Sincerely,

Nansi López, Policy Director for Centro Cultural