



March 12, 2025

Subject: Vote NO on HB 2548 – Protect Local Farms & Jobs

Dear Rep Jeff Helfrich,

I urge you to vote NO on HB 2548, the Workforce Standards Board bill. This legislation threatens the economic stability of The Dalles and Wasco County by imposing unnecessary and burdensome regulations on our agricultural industry—one that already upholds some of the nation’s strongest farm labor laws.

HB 2548 would create an unelected governing board with the power to impose additional labor regulations, stripping farmers of their ability to manage their own workforce. It would also eliminate at-will employment in agriculture, dictating how farm employers can hire, discipline, and terminate workers. This one-size-fits-all mandate disregards the unique challenges of farming and threatens the viability of family farms and ranches across Oregon.

Our farmers already face severe labor shortages and rising costs while competing in a global market where they cannot simply raise prices to offset new expenses. By transferring critical staffing, wage, benefit, and training decisions to an unaccountable board, HB 2548 risks driving local farms out of business—hurting not just farmers, but the workers and communities who depend on them.

Oregon law allows at-will employment across nearly all industries—why should agriculture be singled out? Please stand with local farmers and vote NO on HB 2548.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Wallace", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Robert Wallace, President
Port of The Dalles Board of Commissioners