



TO: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards
FROM: UFCW Local 555
Date: 3/12/2025

YES ON HB 2548 -2

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice Chair Elmer, Vice Chair Muñoz, and members of the committee,

My name is Madison Walters, and I am a Political Liaison and a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555. I am writing to you today on behalf of our membership to strongly urge your support for HB 2548 with the -2 amendment.

UFCW 555 represents tens of thousands of workers across the grocery, retail, manufacturing, and healthcare sectors in Oregon. Our members take pride in acting as a strong voice for working people. We are especially proud to stand in solidarity with our siblings from PCUN to advocate for the workers' rights and industry standards that these workers have been unfairly denied for generations.

As many workers have personally testified, farmworkers perform incredibly physically demanding labor, often in extreme conditions, in order to provide a critical service to Oregon— putting food on our tables, and contributing over 6 billion dollars to our state's economy. Despite this, our farmworkers earn an average of just \$34,500 annually, and face unique challenges due to a lack of federal worker protections.

At UFCW 555, where some of our members are a missed paycheck away from eviction— we know how critical it is to have workplace standards that allow workers to defend themselves from abuse from their employers. Too often, our union has had to intervene to protect our members from retaliation, safety issues, wage theft, and countless other violations.

By passing HB 2548 -2 and establishing a Farmworker Standards Board, the legislature has the opportunity to right the historic wrongs of our federal government, and provide an opportunity for farmworkers to negotiate with employers and set standards for fair wages, safe workplaces, and protection from retaliation. We know these standards

boards are successful structures to strengthen the workforce, because they've successfully done so in other states such as New York, Minnesota, and Washington.

As workers in the food manufacturing and grocery sectors, our members rely on the hard work and sacrifice of farmworkers in order to perform our work. It is unconscionable and unacceptable to continue to deny these workers the right to advocate for themselves and their families.

We strongly urge your "aye" vote. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Madison Walters

Political Liaison
UFCW 555



UNITED FOOD & COMMERCIAL WORKERS LOCAL 555

7095 SW Sandburg Street Tigard, Oregon 97281-3555 • ufcw555.org