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On Behalf Of:
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Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2548

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The Harmful Impact of HB 2548 on Farmers and Agricultural Workers

HB 2548 poses a serious threat to the agricultural industry by stripping farm employers of their ability to make crucial business decisions. This bill establishes an unelected governing body with unchecked power to impose new regulations on farms every two years. These regulations include increasing minimum wages, mandating rest breaks, controlling work schedules, and dictating training requirements. While the bill claims to protect workers, it instead makes farming more expensive and difficult, jeopardizing the very jobs it intends to safeguard.

Farm work is inherently unpredictable, requiring flexibility to adapt to weather conditions, crop demands, and market fluctuations. HB 2548 ignores these realities, instead imposing rigid mandates that hinder farmers' ability to manage their operations effectively. The result will be higher costs, increased legal risks, and the closure of many farms. When farms go out of business, jobs disappear, local food production declines, and entire communities suffer. Instead of helping workers, this bill threatens the livelihoods of those it claims to protect.

If lawmakers truly want to support farmworkers, they should focus on policies that strengthen, rather than weaken, the agricultural industry. HB 2548 does the opposite—it burdens farmers with unnecessary regulations, making it harder to stay in business and provide stable employment. For the sake of both farmers and workers, this bill should not become law.