

LUCETTA ELMER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 24



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 13, 2025

Chair Grayber, Vice Chair Munoz, Members of the Committee –

For the record, my name is Representative Lucetta Elmer and I represent House District 24, affectionately known as Pinot Noir Paradise. I write to you in firm opposition to House Bill 2548 which will hurt Oregon's family farmers and ranchers, and our wine industry.

For reference, I grew up on a small farm in Willamina, where my Dad raised cattle and hay. My roots have always stayed with me, as well as my appreciation for quality, Oregon beef.

In full disclosure – I am not a farmer, like many of my colleagues. But what I am is a small business owner. I understand my business, the clientele I serve, and my employees. I can't imagine a one-sized fits all board suddenly coming in and telling me how I can run my business. And yet, what you are hearing about with this bill will do just that.

As I was reading through House Bill 2548, I truly began to wonder why we even have an Oregon Legislature. This is not meant to be sarcastic. Why do we have a body of elected officials that are accountable to voters when in one bill, *which we are giving light to by having a public hearing*, could give the same level of responsibility to unelected bureaucrats?

Frankly, this is offensive to Oregonians and to the constituents we represent.

In both the base bill, as well as the -2, 21-page Amendment, which I would note was posted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, all decisions made by this board will provide one public hearing available to the public on the proposed changes. Here in the Legislature, we have a robust process for civic engagement – including multiple times in which the public can engage before a bill becomes a law. But not through the process this bill establishes.

Colleagues, the stakes of this bill and the dangerous precedent this legislation sets are frightening. The frustration you are hearing is real. The fear you are hearing is real. Please do not take away the relationship that farmers have with their employees. Do not set a precedent that I, as a small business owner in another sector, might one day also have to answer to.

Please oppose House Bill 2548. Protect Oregon's Family Farms.

Thank you,

Lucetta Elmer