

# CROOK – WHEELER COUNTY *Farm Bureau*

498 S.E. Lynn Blvd. Prineville, OR 97754

Chair Grayber, Vice Chair Elmer and Committee Members  
Labor and Workplace Standards  
900 Court Street NE. Salem, OR 97301

RE Vote No on HB 2548

Dear Chair Grayber and Committee Members,

Crook-Wheeler County Farm Bureau is a Grassroots member organization of 108 Farming and Ranching Families. We want Agriculture to flourish in our counties and as stewards of the land we want to be able to hand down this way of life to the next generation.

HB 2548 and the -2 amendment would hurt farming and ranching families by removing policymaking from elected officials to an unelected and unaccountable board. It would be treating private agriculture employers differently than other private employers by eliminating at-will employment in agriculture.

We have suffered a great deal over the past 10 years with recession, drought, wage increases, low commodity prices and wildfires. HB 2548 and the -2 amendment will make it nearly impossible for agriculture to survive especially if we need to hire workers.

HB2548

- Gives unelected officials the power to set wages and safety rules that go far beyond current protections
- Unfairly targets agriculture by taking away at-will employment
- Forces farmers to keep employees who may not meet performance expectations or adapt to demands of the job
- Makes farming more expensive
- Shifts the burden of proof onto the employer
- Would threaten the livelihood of family farms and ranches by imposing unnecessary legal burdens
- The emergency clause making this bill effective immediately upon passage is unreasonable

This bill as drafted will be a detriment to our state and to the overall agricultural industry. We ask you to vote no on HB2548 and the -2 amendment.

Respectfully Submitted

*Tim Deboodt*

Crook-Wheeler County Farm Bureau President

