

Submitter: Scott Halliday  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2548

Scott Halliday  
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Oregon House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards

Measure HB2548

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Scott Halliday and I live in the upper Hood River Valley outside the little community of Parkdale. Along with my son David, we grow pears and cherries. I've served 21 years on the Board of Diamond Fruit Growers Coop, with six years as the Chair. I have served several years on the Hood River Growers Shipper Association, Middle Fork Irrigation board, Hood River Soil and Conservation Board, as well as other community programs. I'm a fourth generation fruit farmer, working hard with the hope that our farm can support the next generations. I'll be straight with you, however, I'm not sure it's going to be possible. While we struggle with shrinking margins, we're also constantly being besieged with new costly regulations. I understand the desire to protect employees, regardless of the industry that they are working in, but I don't understand those promoting HB2548 and their lack of understanding of the consequences this bill will have. To be honest, I don't think they care. We've had multiple generations of employees working for us. We have helped them save their earnings so they can send their kids to college. We spend our off time traveling to their home town in Mexico to enjoy their company. We consider them family and friends. Yet every time I turn around a new bill is being proposed that not only effects our bottom line but also theirs. But again, I don't think the proponents of HB2548 really care. They see us as the soft bellies of their opposition. An easy win. One where they can hold up and crow that they are hard at work, earning their pay. And the consequences of all this, less family farms. But maybe that's what they want, because when all our food comes from large Corporations they will declare that they are needed more than ever.

Sorry for such a cynical version of our situation, but I'm getting tired. I'm getting tired of the hardcore right and the hardcore left battling it out, sucking up all the air, while people like us just want to be left alone so we can try to make a living. Anyway, I'm opposed to FB2548.