

Submitter: Robert Kircher

On Behalf of: Forest Glen Farms

Committee: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2548

I am submitting opposition to HB 2548.

We are a farm that relies heavily on our employees, without them we would not be in business. We take great pride in the way we take care of our employees, these people are our team. We have multiple generations working for us that we consider family. In any business if you do not take care of your employees they will leave, your business will fail. In the last 6 years we have raised our wages to employees to be competitive and retain employees, then our people in the Oregon legislature decided farms needed to pay overtime on top of the already increased wages we were paying, now many employees work less hours per week. Keep in mind the prices farmers receive for farm raised products are NOT set by the farmer, Farmers are price takers. Every year more farms are going out of business. Oregon continues to add more regulations for farmers making it tougher to stay in business farming in Oregon. More legislators need to take the time to go out and visit farms in Oregon to better understand agriculture in Oregon.

Oregon has some of the most stringent ag labor standards in the country. Oregon Agriculture does not need more bureaucratic oversight.

No Farms, No Food.