

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

For far too long, farmworkers have been denied essential labor protections under the National Labor Relations Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act. This unjust exclusion has resulted in farmworkers being some of the lowest-paid workers in our state, forced to endure unsafe and inadequate working conditions.

The creation of a Farmworker Standards Board is a powerful step toward correcting these historic injustices. It will give farmworkers a crucial say in shaping industry standards that reflect their needs and rights. Proven successful in various states and cities nationwide, these workforce standards boards unite workers with industry representatives and public officials to establish meaningful, enforceable standards that ensure accountability.

From New York's farm laborers to Minnesota's nursing home staff and Seattle's domestic workers, these boards have demonstrated their ability to amplify workers' voices and safeguard their rights. By supporting HB 2548, we can empower our farmworkers, uplift our communities, and ensure that the essential food we depend on is produced under fair and just conditions. As a small farmer, I urge you to please support HB 2548 today!