

To: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards  
From: Maria Cabrales  
Subject: Yes on HB 2548

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Muñoz, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Maria Cabrales, I live in Woodburn and I am writing in strong support of HB 2548 to create a Farmworker Standards Board in Oregon.

There are over 72,000 farmworkers in Oregon who put food on our tables and contribute over \$6.4 billion dollars to our state's economy. These 72,000 essential farmworkers experience poor working conditions, and earn an average of just \$34,500 annually. Most farmworkers are immigrants from Mexico, Guatemala, and other countries of Central America, many speaking indigenous languages.

HB 2548 will give historically excluded farmworkers their first voice in setting industry standards with real enforcement power and accountability. The board will ensure access to fair wages, safe conditions, and protection from retaliation.

Cities and states across the country have proven that workforce standards boards work. These boards bring workers together with industry and public representatives to set meaningful standards with real enforcement power to ensure accountability. From New York's farm laborers to Minnesota's nursing home staff to Seattle's domestic workers, these boards give workers the voice and protections they deserve and give our communities the essential food we need.

As the daughter of immigrants and a member of one of the state's most vibrant Hispanic communities, I witness firsthand the hard work and dedication of our farmworking community and the invaluable contributions they make to our state every day. At the same time, I also see the many challenges they face. HB 2548 will help ensure that we empower them with the autonomy and resources they need, providing protection and support to help them thrive. This will enable them to continue playing a vital role in our state's success while addressing the barriers that hinder their well-being.

I urge you to vote yes on HB 2548 to create a Farmworker Standards Board and give farmworkers the ability to set standards for the industry.

Sincerely,

Maria Cabrales