

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

As an organic and conventional vegetable and grass seed farm in the Willamette Valley, I oppose HB 2548. Owning and operating an Ag business comes with what seems like endless risks, whether its environmental, economic, or regulatory. A farm without a tight knit group of members is destined to fail. An Ag labor board will simply interfere with an operation's ability to form a team to accomplish the goals necessary for all involved to be successful. As regulations and ours cost of operating increase, the consumer looks for the cheapest product on the store shelves, most of which are coming from places with little to no protections for workers and wages that provide in a day what workers here earn in an hour. I have no doubt that if I provided an unsafe work environment and did not treat our employees with the respect they deserve I would find myself operating my farm alone. An Ag labor board is unnecessary and will make it impossible for Oregon farms to compete in an ever more competitive global Ag market. Please oppose HB 2548