

Submitter: Elsa Menendez Humara

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Dear Members of the Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill HB4153.

I moved to Portland when my children were just 1 and 3 years old. We didn't know anyone, and we didn't really know the city yet. As a family, we started exploring the farms in the surrounding areas, and we were amazed by how accessible and family-friendly they were. That is truly where we began to find our community.

From Halloween mazes, to petting animals, to concerts at the farms, these spaces became a place where our whole family could gather and enjoy something for everyone—without breaking the bank. As our family grew, farms were always there for us.

Our kids learned where food comes from. They learned to appreciate farm animals, to value small farms, and to understand why caring for the environment matters. These lessons can't be taught the same way anywhere else.

Farms are safe, welcoming places for families, teens, and grandparents alike. When my parents came to visit from Spain, farms were one of the first places we took them—it was a way to show them our community and the values we were raising our children with.

Please don't let our farms disappear. They are essential to families like mine and to the fabric of our communities.

Thank you for your time and for supporting HB4153.