

Submitter: Meg Dueber

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

I have lived in the upper Hood River Valley for over 30 years, and know many of the orchardists that raise the fruit we all enjoy and that keeps our economy strong, but have also seen some of them try to become ridiculously wealthy by trying to find ways to turn their already very successful farms into retail outlets for non-farm food and goods, wedding venues and entertainment centers. I had a retail store in downtown Hood River for nearly 20 years and paid the high rents and managed to support myself without the full threat of retail establishments thriving outside of the commercial zone, which would not have been tenable if competition such as this crazy bill would allow were in place. I already see commercial restaurants struggling because some farmers have managed to get permits to sell pizza and so much more on their farms with the overly liberal existing rules they bend. Sure those venues are popular with many folks, but those folks don't realize the toll that takes on non-farm businesses, not to mention the residents who live near those operations after they bought their places for the rural existence that is increasingly subject to tourists who have no idea what effects they are having.

Traditional farm stands that sell what the farmer grows is the American way and is suitable, and its own pleasure for city folks to get out of town on a lovely fall weekend to check out and support, but when that becomes a destination to spend the afternoon with your family with playgrounds and places to sit out, eat a full meal with drinks, that is going way to far. This bill would make that the norm for those not interested in farming, and would make prices for those properties skyrocket so that real farming on those lands would be out of reach.

For the foregoing and so many other reasons you are doubtless hearing about from people who care about keeping Oregon the wise land-use state that it is, please vote to kill this ugly bill.