

Submitter: Sarah Kelly

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water:

My name is Sarah Kelly, and I am a farmer in Veneta, Oregon. I oppose HB 4153. Farm stands are a critical form of direct agricultural sales for small farms. HB 4153 replaces existing farm stand allowances with a farm store framework that relies on acreage and scale-based eligibility, creating disproportionate barriers for small operations while favoring larger ones. I urge the committee to reconsider this approach and ensure continued access to simple, low-impact farm stands.

I am a small farmer in Veneta, Oregon, just trying to make it while building a regenerative, sustainable farm that feeds my community and restores the land. Agritourism, including on-farm education, workshops, and small events, is not optional for my farm; it is essential to my economic survival and long-term viability. Without the ability to host educational events, my farm will not be economically viable. HB 4153 would directly block that path. Under this bill, my farm would face higher barriers and delayed eligibility simply because I farm fewer acres, while much larger operations could host unlimited events with only minimal commodity production and no requirement to educate the public. This bill rewards land ownership over stewardship, promotes green-washed tourism, and would take away one of the few realistic tools small farmers like me have to stay on the land, share knowledge, and contribute to a resilient local food system.

We are asking you to not have a higher burden on the smallest farms. This bill takes away opportunities from small land holders and farms in order for larger operations to be able to host more events. This is not a good bargain for Oregon and a better deal must be found.

Thank you,

Sarah Kelly  
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