

Submitter: Peter Gutmann

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

I am writing in strong support of HB 4153 and to urge you to vote in favor of this important legislation.

Small farms like Topaz Farms are a vital part of Oregon's agricultural identity, local economy, and rural communities. As margins in traditional farming continue to shrink, agritourism has become one of the only realistic ways for family-scale farms to remain financially viable while continuing to steward their land responsibly. HB 4153 provides reasonable, common-sense protections that allow these farms to diversify, adapt, and survive.

Agritourism does more than support farmers — it connects Oregonians to where their food comes from, supports local jobs, and preserves working farmland that might otherwise be lost to development. Farms like Topaz are thoughtful, community-minded operators who want to continue offering educational and recreational experiences while remaining good neighbors.

Without the flexibility HB 4153 provides, many small farms will simply not be able to stay in business. This bill helps ensure that Oregon's agricultural future includes family farms, not just large industrial operations.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your consideration. I hope you will stand with Oregon's small farms and support HB 4153.

Thank you.

Peter Gutmann