

Submitter: nicole chaisson
On Behalf Of: Property Rights Oregon
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

My name is Nicole Chaisson and I am a small family farmer from Wasco County with Property Rights Oregon . I strongly support HB 4153, which allows counties to approve farm stores as a nonfarm use on lands zoned for farm use, modernizing outdated rules for farm stands and agritourism. Oregon's family farms face rising costs and challenges to stay viable. Many small operations rely on direct sales through farm stands, U-pick experiences, seasonal events, and simple visitor amenities to supplement income and connect communities with fresh, local food. HB 4153 provides much-needed clarity and flexibility, allowing farms to continue these activities without the threat of overly restrictive regulations or uncertainty. This bipartisan bill protects the future of family farms, supports rural economies, and preserves our state's agricultural heritage while maintaining local county oversight on important issues like traffic and safety. It ensures that Oregonians can keep enjoying pumpkin patches, cherry picking, farm markets, corn mazes, and educational farm visits for generations to come without losing more farms at an alarming rate. I urge the committee to advance HB 4153 to help our farms thrive and keep Oregon's farmland productive and community focused. Thank you for your consideration.