



February 4, 2026

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

RE: HB 4153 — OPPOSE

Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald, and Committee Members:

Friends of the Columbia Gorge (“Friends”) is a non-profit organization with approximately 4,000 members. Friends is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the scenic, cultural, recreation, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (“Gorge” or “National Scenic Area”).

Friends opposes HB 4153, which would require counties to approve “farm stores” instead of farm stands on land zoned for Exclusive Farm Use (EFU). It would also permit agritourism events to

Oregon’s current laws regarding agri-tourism already allow for commercial activities, such as farm stands, and events on land zoned for EFU. This bill proposes a significant change to existing law that will significantly degrade the integrity of Oregon’s farmland.

Existing laws allow for farm stands to sell products grown, produced, or related to the farm, allowing farmers to generate additional income while keeping the purpose primarily farm related. Agritourism laws also include protections for farmland that require that any events be “incidental and subordinate to existing farm use.”

HB 4134 would allow large retail stores that may not be directly related to the farms where they are located, as long as they sell some amount of farm products. This bill does not provide adequate safeguards to ensure that agricultural products are the primary purpose of the farm store.

It is crucial that we protect Oregon’s farmlands. This bill would result in further loss of active farmland, as some of these lands would be converted into large retail spaces, event spaces, and parking areas in lieu of being used for farming purposes. Farmers would then have to compete with retail and event businesses to purchase farmland, driving up costs, and creating additional barriers to small farmers in Oregon. It would also increase traffic on already strained rural roads, heighten wildfire risks, and put additional pressure on water resources.

Please vote no on HB 4153 and protect Oregon’s working farms.

Sincerely,  
Madison Kenney  
Advocacy & Policy Coordinator