

Submitter: Morgan Lutz

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

My name is Morgan Lutz and I strongly oppose bill HB-4153.

At first glance the bill HB-4153 has many good improvements like hosting events at their farm stands. But upon closer inspection I realized it would absolutely wipe out many of the small farm stands myself and my neighbors rely on today. This bill would close these farm stands simply because of size requirements!!!! I don't understand the reasoning behind this. We don't need to punish small businesses to allow large business to do more. You can absolutely rework this to come to a fair solution for small farms.

I'm sure you're aware of the recent vital farms controversy. Big businesses just can't be trusted to treat their animals well or tell the truth. Slapped on "pasture raised" stickers are highly unregulated and doesn't actually indicate high quality of life for the animals.

I rely on small farms to help me support my community as well as purchase animal products ethically. It's truly impossible to ethically consume animal products by relying on the grocery store. Additionally I find many times the price of eggs from these folks are cheaper! My local Sunday market has high quality and affordable goods and this bill would require some of the stands there to close!!!!

There's been so much food insecurity over the last few years. Why are we trying to reduce avenues for affordable ethical food?

Again it seems like the intent of the bill was to allow more mature farms the ability to do more things. But that shouldn't come at the cost of locally owned and operated farm stands.