

Submitter: Faith Townsend

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 Faith Townsend and I am a community member of Port Orford. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153. Farm stands are a vital part of connecting the public with our food system and building an understanding of what it takes to go from field to fork. But HB 4153 would restrict who is allowed to have a farm stand, replace current definitions with Farm Stores, and give large land owners privileges at the expense of small farm stands in Oregon. We need to find a better solution.

I care about this because Curry County is made up of small rural communities that depend on farm stands. We do not have any large major farms, and small local farm stands make up most of the agriculture that occurs here. These stands are an integral part of the communities values and culture, and without them food costs would continue to rise due to extra costs related to shipping in produce/other goods. A good representation of this is that poor quality and often inedible produce is sold at a higher cost at major grocery stores than fresh, organic, local produce that is grown right here.

Additionally, there is no reason to cater only to larger farms. Small farms deserve the same rights as large farms, especially when these small farms are already such a vital part of the community.

We are asking you to not place 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,

Faith Townsend

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