

Submitter: Catherine Garza

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 Catherine and I am a community member in McMinnville OR. 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 I frequently attend and visit restaurants and local businesses that use local produce and farm fresh products. I also go to the farmer's market weekly during the season and prefer to purchase local produce from small farmers instead of large chain grocery stores.

I go to farm stands that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill.

Small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms. The small local farms around my community help bring us all together. I enjoy taking my kids to these local farms and ranches to show them how food is grown and made. Daily I use products from my local area farms/suppliers such as vegetables, meats, soaps and dishware, and even clothing!

We are asking you to not have 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,

Catherine Garza
325 se lawson lane
Mcminnville, OR 97128