

Submitter: Rachel Marcotte

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 Rachel Marcotte and I am a FARMER/FARM STAND OPERATOR in Eugene.

My husband and I are retired and live off our social security, our garden and livestock products and the proceeds of our farm stand. The farm stand proceeds are roughly \$3000-4000 annually and provide us with a little extra income to buy our medications throughout the year (my husband is in cancer treatment and the cost is considerable.) Also our farm products are fresh and wholesome and are welcomed by all of our neighbors as an alternative to store-bought products.

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

Consider answering some of these questions or using these statements as a jumping off point in your testimony:

I operate a farm stand 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.

Why is small farming important to you? What is the value of small operations in your community?

Why should large acreage farmers gain privileges at the expense of smaller acre farmers?

Why should a small farm be any less legitimate than a large farm when it comes to defining farm use?

What do farm stands do for your farm business or community?

What does it mean for you, your farm and your community if the primary purpose of a farm stand becomes agritourism events, not the sale of farm products?

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,

Rachel Marcotte
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