

Submitter: Lauren Oliver

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Greetings, 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 Dr. Lauren Oliver and I am a community member in Ashland and a member of the Bellview Grange 759. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153, joining the opposition by the Oregon State Grange. 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.

We want to find solutions for farmers to diversify their income, but limiting who is allowed to participate in farm stands/stores because of their size is counter to the community food system.

I care about this because I frequently go to a farm stand that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill. Members of my Grange operate small farms that do not meet the requirements for acreage and income. This bill is unfair to small farms, which provide much of the direct fresh produce available to me and my neighbors.

I value the small farms in my area, as they maintain acreage in operation that would be lost if they cannot sell their produce with the same opportunities as larger farms.

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,

Dr. Lauren Oliver
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