

Submitter: Heidi Luckman

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 Heidi Luckman and I am a community member and am part of the Valley Flora Community Supported Agriculture in Coquille. 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 belong to a local CSA from a small local farm. It is important to me that I buy food that is grown locally to me and that I support my farming neighbors. I also visit the farm several times each summer to pick strawberries and flowers. I also make at least two visits per summer to a blueberry farm to pick my blueberries for preserving. It seems to me that blocking access to local farmers, ranchers, and other growers completely undermines our food system and our communities.

I am 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,

Heidi Luckman
Coquille