

-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water:

I am a senior and a long-time resident of Curry County. I am strongly opposed to HB 4153. In this time of fracturing small communities and social disengagement, farm stands are a vital part of connecting people with the source of our food, of supporting a local economy and resource, and upholding the work of common people striving to build a vital business of their small scale farming. This character is a strong part of what makes Oregon a livable state. And it is even truer on the coast. 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.

Our local farms, though few compared to other areas, are supported by citizens who want to support their way of life.

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,

Laura Greathead

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