

Submitter: Paul McDonough

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

My name is Paul McDonough, and I am writing in strong support of HB 4153.

I grew up on a farm, where I learned firsthand how much work, care, and commitment it takes to keep a small agricultural operation alive. Today, I continue that tradition by operating a small farm myself. Farming has never been easy, and in recent years it has become even more challenging for small farms to survive.

HB 4153 is critically important to our livelihood. Agritourism activities such as pumpkin patches, U-pick operations, and on-farm events are not extras for small farms — they are essential. These activities help us diversify our income, connect with our communities, and educate the public about where their food comes from. Without them, many small farms simply would not be able to stay in business.

This bill provides reasonable protections for small farms while allowing us to continue welcoming families and visitors onto our land. It helps ensure that farms like mine can remain viable, preserve agricultural land, and continue contributing to Oregon's rural economy and culture.

I urge you to support HB 4153 and stand with Oregon's small farms. Thank you for your time and consideration.