

Submitter: Teresa DeLorenzo

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

I would like to support the comments provided by Scott Thompson of Blackberry Bog Farm.

The best way to provide food security is to encourage locally grown retail food. And Blackberry Bog Farm has been doing that for the past ten, going on 11 years.

Blackberry Bog Farm is the ONLY LICENSED farm stand in Clatsop County -- an arduous county process that addresses providing on-farm retail sales and protects farm land.

HB4153 would cripple the opportunity for Scott Thompson and other small farm owners in Clatsop County to be able to operate legitimate farm stands. Farms in Clatsop County are small, and that needs to be factored in to any effort to regulate farm stands while protecting farm land. Farm stands should not be amusement parks with restaurants and all manner of non-farm activities and non-farm retail marketing, as some currently are. The opportunity for legitimate farm stands needs to be protected just as the farm land is. It is an important part of providing local food security.

Please revise HB 4153 so that it serves and protects farmers and farm land.