

Submitter: Dawn Phillingane

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

My Name is Dawn Phillingane and I am a farm stand buyer and supporter in Bandon, Oregon. 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 as a dedicated buyer and supporter, I regularly visit and purchase from small local farm stands that provide fresh, community-grown produce and build direct connections between farmers and consumers. Many of these stands operate on smaller parcels that would not meet the acreage requirements outlined in section 2.2 of the bill (or similar provisions in its versions/amendments), such as minimums tied to 80+ acres with 45+ in production, scaling down to requirements for smaller lots that still exclude many modest operations unless they hit high income thresholds. These small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms—without artificial barriers based on land size.

Small farming is important to me because it keeps agriculture accessible, diverse, and rooted in local communities. Small operations provide fresh, high-quality food, support beginning farmers, preserve rural character, and foster education about sustainable practices. They offer unique value through personal relationships, seasonal variety, and direct economic support that circulates within Oregon towns rather than benefiting distant or large-scale entities.

Why should large acreage farmers gain privileges at the expense of smaller acre farmers? They shouldn't—equity in land-use rules should support all scales of farming, not favor those who already have more resources. A small farm should be no less legitimate than a large one when it comes to defining farm use; legitimacy comes from productive farming and community benefit, not just acreage.

Farm stands do so much for communities: they make local food affordable and accessible, reduce transportation needs for produce, educate visitors (including families and children) about agriculture, and provide supplemental income that helps small farmers stay viable without relying solely on wholesale markets.

If the primary purpose of a farm stand shifts toward agritourism events rather than the sale of farm products, it risks turning genuine farming operations into event venues, potentially sidelining the core mission of growing and selling food. For me as a supporter, it would mean losing cherished small stands that prioritize fresh goods over large-scale entertainment.

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—one that protects and includes small-scale farm stands without restrictive acreage or income gates.

Thank you,

Dawn Phillingane

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