

Submitter: Yolanda Duenas

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 Yolanda Duenas and I am a community member in Bandon, OR. 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 small farms are not just businesses, they are essential community infrastructure. They provide fresh, local food, protect open land, preserve soil and water quality, and keep our town resilient in times of economic or supply-chain uncertainty. When we support small farms, we support food security, local jobs, and responsible land stewardship.

Unlike large industrial operations, small farms work in harmony with the land and the community. They contribute to the local economy, reduce environmental strain, and maintain the character and heritage of our town. Once farmland is lost, it is nearly impossible to restore.

Protecting small farms is an investment in our town's health, economy, and future generations. I urge you to support policies that allow small farms to survive, grow, and continue serving this community. 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,

Yolanda Duenas

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