

Submitter: Bradley Kanagy
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

February 7, 2026

Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, Vice-chair McDonald and members of the committee

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 4153. I urge you to vote no on this bill.

I am a long-time resident of Washington County. While I support farmer-owned and operated stores, restaurants and event venues inside our cities and small farms as well as direct sales for farmers under existing farm stand provisions, I do not support allowing de facto rural commercial development under the guise of "farm stores." By allowing commercial development on exclusive farm use land, we are incentivizing the siting of retail stores and restaurants on land zoned exclusively for farm use as such land is cheaper, taxed at farm-use value, and located outside city commercial regulations. In turn, local farmers who actually want to farm would be undermined as the price of farmland goes up, making it more unaffordable to new and beginning farmers.

Please vote no on this bill and protect the critical land use base on which Oregon's agricultural industry depends.

Thank you for considering my comments and allowing this opportunity for public input