

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

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Chris, and I live in Portland. I'm here to express my opposition to HB 4153 as written.

I'm not a farmer, but I have worked directly with small farmers while running a community food buying club. Those relationships only worked because the farmers we partnered with were small, flexible, and operating close to the margins. Larger operations would not—and could not—have worked with us.

Farm stands and other direct-to-community sales work precisely because they are simple and low-barrier. HB 4153 replaces that simplicity with a new “farm store” category that introduces acreage thresholds, income tests, and additional permitting complexity. In practice, those kinds of requirements favor larger, better-resourced operations.

As an urban resident, I depend on small and family farms for food access, environmental stewardship, and regional resilience. Policies that narrow who can sell directly to the public undermine those outcomes, even if unintentionally.

I urge you not to advance HB 4153 in its current form and instead work with family farm organizations to ensure any changes truly support small and beginning farmers.

Thank you for your time.