

Submitter: Ashley Schacher

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

I work for a farm in Oregon that operates a farm stand where 80% of what we sell is a vegetable or plant that we have grown on our own land. I believe in hard work, locally grown produce, and caring for the land. The farm works very hard to restore farmland that has been abandoned for decades, and we keep growing crops and providing the community with food at the top of our priority with every new endeavor.

If loosening the reins on farms that center their income on hayrides and donuts was the only change that has appeared in this bill since the last farm bill I would not be commenting. Unfortunately, however, this bill would also close our current farmstand that allows us to sell our produce, plants, and pumpkins.

We live in a county where a large amount of the EFU land is covered in trees, creeks, or in our case, wetland. The farm has a portion of land that is quality soil for farming, and we use that soil to the best of our ability. We are NOT able to farm the required 45 acres that it outlines in this new bill. We are currently ripping out tree roots and holly stumps, hand-plucking vines and branches to remove the debris so that we can rototill and start planting. We are not able to put into production the 45 required acres before being able to sell any of our produce or plants.

I cannot imagine how difficult reaching these requirements would be for farms with less resources that want to sell their produce but cannot do so until they are producing on over half the acreage.

I hope that you all will listen, and I hope that you will take a step back and get to know the people who are out in the fields and who are affected by the bill that you are writing, before making decisions that affect their livelihood.