

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

Additional Written Testimony on HB 4153

Christopher Peters, Bearfox Farms LLC  
Elsie, Oregon

I previously submitted written testimony on HB 4153 and would like to add the following clarification.

I believe HB 4153 approaches farm stores and agritourism backwards. I do not believe there should be a minimum income requirement for a farmer to operate a basic farm stand that allows them to sell what they grow. Farmers should have a clear ability to sell their own agricultural products directly to the public regardless of minimum income level.

In my view, income thresholds should only become relevant after a farm reaches a certain scale. At that point, a more formal farm store designation may make sense. However, requiring farms to meet a minimum income level before they are allowed to sell their own products creates a barrier that small, new, and limited acreage farms cannot overcome.

I also believe agritourism is important to both farmers and the broader community. Farmers are entrusted with land that most members of the public will never have access to. Allowing people to visit farms, participate in u-pick, seasonal events, and engage with working agricultural land benefits rural communities and strengthens long-term support for agriculture.

It should be possible to support both agriculture and agritourism while still protecting Exclusive Farm Use land. HB 4153, as written, penalizes small farms and unfairly advantages large, established operations that already benefited from scale, capital, and acreage.

Small farmers should not be excluded from building viable operations simply because they are not already successful. Land use policy should create pathways for farms to grow, not barriers that prevent them from ever reaching sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to add this clarification and for considering how this bill impacts farms of all sizes.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christopher Peters  
Bearfox Farms LLC  
Elsie, Oregon