

Submitter: Corinne Koopowitz

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

I, Corinne, send in this text opposing HB 4153. I have been an Oregonian for going on nine years. One very important reason we enjoy living here is the rugged land, the beauty, the trees, having space away from the hectic, fast paced, noisy, crowds and so many wonderful people and friends. The price of homes/land in our rural town is affordable. It is wonderful having space and peace and quiet, and so much more. Us, and our friends, long time Oregon residents, care about where we live, the surrounding, and supposedly laws that are suppose to protect good things that Oregon has to offer, including quality of life. Why do something that will only cause problems? One of my concerns is that time and time again, government employee, be it the Governor, now Tina Kotec, City officials, seem to think it is acceptable to allow land use changes/zone changes, to violate laws that are to protect crucial types of existing land and nature resources, and do not consider quality of life for homeowners - hard working people, responsible, tax paying and caring people, and do not value what Oregon has had to offer long before they became Oregon employees - long before Kate Brown, long before her friend Tina Kotec, long before current planning department employees, etc. I have come to the conclusion that such land changes is merely because of money. Nothing else makes sense in my opinion. I also realize these that government employees have a duty to all Oregon residents to say no when it is appropriate to anyone that wants to play the game of fining loop holes to get what they want. But when it is our county/state officials doing this, it is sickening. If any of them believe it is more important to change farm/agriculture land in order to allow big buildings, venues, events, noise, traffic, shops, bars, etc., they are so wrong in their way of thinking. If they do not have the courage and confidence to say no, if they do not have a strong morals or backbone, I believe they should step down and leave the important decision making to those that truly care. Are government employees not suppose to represent Oregon in the best way possible? This proposed bill is not what is best. I am a believer to do what is right, for the right reasons. Whoever wrote and proposed HB 4153 has an ulterior motive. Please look at the big picture, now and in the future. Oregon allowing unnecessary types of commercial "entertainment: in lieu of farm/agriculture land is really stupid. The definition of stupid is ignorance and a lack of common sense. Is it not more important, and crucial to have sufficient farm/agriculture to grow food so we can rely on it to feed us and our families? Or, is it more important to import food and hope for the best? I am praying everyone involved in this bill agrees that growing our own food is the priority. And, going beyond food, what about the natural valued resource as water. Is water not better used to water crops, instead of filling pools, watering landscape at these so called "farm stores" so it all looks neat and pretty.

What a joke. Again, think of the big picture, the long-term picture. Passing this bill would be a huge mistake. It would affect so many people, but only "help" a select few. There are so many negative consequences; there would be a lot lost than gained. Calling these businesses "farm stores" is insulting; done only as a means to make it sound good. How dare Tina Kotec or anyone else supporting this bill by playing this game. Again, think of the consequences; it is not a win-win; it would be a huge loss for a lot of people; for Oregon. I would like to see City officials/employees do what is in the best interest of Oregonians vs helping a few, by stopping this bill. Can't people just leave things be? If you change it, you cannot stop it and probably have not considered how this bill really would be harmful.