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On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Agritourism has proven over and over to be a great source of income for farmers. Farmstands, weddings, and other types of agritourism have proven to be very popular with the public, and for farmers it can make the difference between saving the farm and leaving the state. Last year, a set of proposed highly restrictive changes to farmstand rules jeopardized farmers' ability to have farmstands and other farm activities on farms zoned for EFU. The proposed regulations were so egregious that a sizable percent of the general public got involved and the proposed new regulations were put on hold by Tina Kotek.

HB1453 attempts to codify into law a set of rules related to agritourism allowed on EFU properties. I'm sure it's not perfect and the question of farmstands and other agritourism activities (including on non-EFU farmland) will need to be revisited, but at least it removes the uncertainty that current farmstands are operating under. Let's have laws (voted in by elected officials) rather than regulations (created by nonelected bureaucrats).