

February 8, 2026

Dear (Oregon) House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water:

I am writing to state my **OPPOSITION to HB 4153**.

This bill's liberal definition of a "farm store" makes a mockery of what it means to be a farmer operating a farm. It unfairly conveys the tax privileges of an EFU zoned property to uses that do not productively use farmland for... farming!

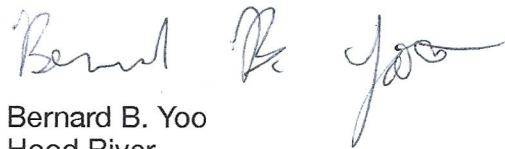
Over 10,000 years of farming history, commercial farming has acted as the soil upon which modern civilization has grown. In this context, the fruits of commercial farming have been the many non-farm occupations and businesses that depend on commercial farming for their sustenance.

The uniquely critical value of farming to our society is recognized and rewarded through EFU property tax deferrals. This is a privilege exclusively for farming, not available to the non-farming occupations.

HB 4153 simultaneously compromises the critical activity of farming (on farmland) while also putting unfair competitive pressures on legitimate non-farm businesses.

I urge you to protect both the soil and the fruits of modern civilization. Vote against HB 4153.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bernard B. Yoo".

Bernard B. Yoo
Hood River