

Submitter: Dawson Farr
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153
Subject: Please Stop HB 4153 – A Hood River Resident's Plea

To whom it may concern,

I'm a Hood River local who spends a ton of time out in the Hood River Valley – driving those twisty roads, enjoying the farms and orchards that make it special. I'm totally against HB 4153, and I mean adamantly opposed. This bill could turn our quiet farm valley into a tourist circus that disrupts the natural beauty and peace that we are famous for.

It opens the door to much larger retail stores and worst of all concert venues – without keeping farming front and center. Our narrow roads are a nightmare during harvest with all the equipment, and adding event crowds would make traffic insane, jack up DUII risks, and worsen wildfire dangers. I've seen how tourism strains us already; we don't need more uncontrolled hubs pushing out real farmers and spiking land prices; they are too high already.

Groups like 1000 Friends of Oregon are right – this strips away protections that keep ag primary and hands less say to counties like ours. Sure, farms need help diversifying, but not by overriding local control and risking our valley's soul. True it might be beneficial to some specific ag areas in the state but that does not mean it should be applied broadly. We, the locals here approved the land use restrictions currently in existence based on what we understand are the actual local needs -

Kill this bill or fix it to protect our farms first. The Valley can't take more.

Thanks,
Dawson Farr
Hood River Resident