

Submitter: Paulette Wittwer
On Behalf Of: Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

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To: Agriculture, Land Use and Natural Resources Committee
From: Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN)
Re: Opposition to HB 4153
Date: February 9, 2026

Co-Chairs Rep. Ken Helms and Rep. Mark Owens, Vice-Chair Rep. Sarah McDonald and Members of the Committee:

The Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) opposes HB 4153 and we strongly urge you to stop this bill in Committee. COIN is a coalition of over 75 rural and urban Indivisible groups throughout Oregon that cooperate and amplify their joint efforts to advance important federal and state legislation and engage with elected officials to promote progressive causes for the benefit of all Oregonians.

We support the small farm business component of Oregon agriculture. We place high value on Oregon small farm stands and their connection to rural Oregon and believe this way of life and way of making a living needs to be respected, not threatened.

Our coalition opposes HB 4153 because:

- It violates Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) zoning in Oregon by using EFU land for “farm stores” and can easily lead to further commercialization of farm land.
- It stipulates that Oregon counties will have no say in the establishment of the “farm stores” and therefore they cannot assess the impact or require changes. It does not allow for local control regarding noise, traffic, safety concerns or other issues.
- It does not include the “good neighbor” policy that is part of agritourism permits so there can be no alternative if the commercialization negatively affects farm neighbors.
- It allows for many non-farm uses including commercial and entertainment events, amusement parks, and commercial kitchens and again, with no local input or control.
- It undermines small businesses and restaurants that pay local taxes in small Oregon towns. It also forces small farm stands to compete with large stores which can carry up to 95% non farm merchandise.

- It inevitably will drive up prices of farmland, challenging small farmers and potential new young farmers who will be competing with large farms, companies and corporations for farmland.

Oregon's agriculture is the states second most economically successful industry. Under current law, Oregon already allows farmstands, agritourism and value-added processing operations. These endeavors support farmers without turning farmland into non-farm commercial operations. The pressure from growing tourist, hospitality and entertainment industries, which want to locate in attractive rural areas, challenges our state with difficult decisions. We must protect these small businesses and our valuable rural areas or all Oregonians will lose.

Please vote No on HB 4153

Respectfully,

Paulette Wittwer, Portland and Parkdale Oregon

Monica Tomosy, Sisters, Oregon

On behalf of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN)