

Submitter: Dan Lowrie
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or HB4153
Topic:

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 4153. As a lifelong Oregonian and farm producer, I have watched numerous attempts to weaken our state's resource lands legislation. The group supporting HB 4153, Oregon Property Owners Association, has spent decades in this effort.

HB 4153 , the 'farm store' bill does not protect farmers, it promotes nonfarm development on farm land.

HB 4153 will allow replacement of modest farm stands with permanent farm stores that can sell 95% or more of merchandise not produced on the farm and restaurant sales.

HB 4153 also creates a loop hole for developers to buy lower priced and lower taxed farm land to develop farm stores as the primary use.

The bill eliminates the 'good neighbor' analysis currently required for agritourism permits to ensure events and activities do not negatively affect other farmers around them.

Purchasing ten acres and a couple of cows does not contribute to the farm economy, but it would qualify under HB 4153 as a farm use and therefore qualify for a farm store. Existing law requires agriculture to remain the predominant use of the land. HB 4153 does not.

Please consider the negative impacts of HB 4153 on Oregon agriculture and the goal of its' supporters to eliminate resource land regulations and vote no on this bill.

Sincerely,
Dan Lowrie
Ag for Oregon