

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

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water:

My Name is Shannon Slay and I am a small farmer, owner of Brickyard Farms, a small produce farm in Tillamook. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153. Farm stands are a vital part of connecting the public with our food system and building an understanding of what it takes to go from field to fork. But HB 4153 would restrict who is allowed to have a farm stand, replace current definitions with Farm Stores, and give large land owners privileges at the expense of small farm stands in Oregon. We need to find a better solution. I care about this because I operate a farm stand that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill. This bill would harm my farm and take away my main source of income. It would place unnecessary burden on my farm and other small farms across the state, forcing many of us out of business. My community relies on small farm stands across the county for fresh produce and food throughout the year. Creating restrictions, and making it more difficult for small farms to make a living would also be taking food away from the community. It should not matter the size of the farm, and it should not be up to the government to dictate how we make a living with what we can produce.

We are asking you to not have a higher burden on the smallest farms. This bill takes away opportunities from small land holders and farms in order for larger operations to be able to host more events. This is not a good bargain for Oregon and a better deal must be found.

Thank you,

Shannon Slay
Owner/Operator
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