

Submitter: Rick Stanek

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural  
Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

I have a 5 acre farm in Columbia County, growing blueberries and other produce. I don't understand the inherent bias against small farmers and farms in this bill. It almost feels like there is the intention here to re-define that a farm is only something operated by large landowners turning over large volumes of produce. There are a lot of smaller farmers producing nutritious food for their localities marketed via farmstands. Many of these farmstands also sell via other arrangements, i.e., subscriptions, wholesale accounts, special orders. I sell my product via a local broker and do not currently operate a stand or U-pick. But we patronize every week, if not more often the other local farmers via their farmstands. We all understand the challenges of finding buyers for our produce. To read the bill it sounds like this would become more difficult, if not discourage or eliminate the existence of small growers. Please reconsider what you have crafted here and amend it to support and encourage the community of farmers and buyers who recognize the value of nutritious, affordable, and locally sourced food.