

Submitter: Stacy Byers
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153
Subject: I Strongly Oppose HB 4153

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 4153.

This bill is ridiculous, unnecessary, and harmful to small farms and rural families across Oregon. It takes something that has worked just fine for years—small farm stands—and tries to regulate them out of existence.

Many of my friends and neighbors sell what they grow in simple, honest ways: a small stand at the end of a driveway, extra produce from the garden, eggs, berries, flowers, or seasonal overflow. These are not big commercial operations. They are families feeding their neighbors and making a little income from the land they care for. And as a fellow Oregonian, I am grateful for each and every one of them and support their entrepreneurial spirit and their willingness to feed their families. They are not holding signs on street corners, they are rolling up their sleeves and working hard to care for themselves, their families and their communities. PLEASE, protect this!

HB 4153 would shut many of these stands down simply because they are small. The acreage and sales requirements in this bill make it clear who it is written for—and who it is written against. Large landowners will be fine. Small, family-run farms will not.

This has nothing to do with safety, fairness, or protecting farmland. It's about imposing rules that don't match real rural life and punishing people who are doing everything right.

Oregon should be encouraging local food and small producers, not telling them they no longer belong unless they farm at an industrial scale. That's not good policy, and it's not the Oregon many of us believe in.

Please vote NO on HB 4153 and leave existing farm stand rules in place.

Respectfully,
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