

Submitter: John Houle

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

I oppose HB4153. As a longtime resident of Sauvie Island and immediate-past president of the Sauvie Island Community Association this bill does not achieve what it purports to achieve. Contrary to claims that hay rides, pumpkin patches, school tours and other activities will cease without this bill, the opposite is true. I know from living on Sauvie Island the home of at least four permitted "farm stand" operations. Current state allow all of these activities and a variety of other related agritainment activities supportive of the agricultural farming practices occurring on a property. Actually, if this bill were to pass, the opposite would occur. Instead, this bill would allow more non-agricultural activities, the creation of "farm stores" that would further erode the original intend of "farm stands" to protect and preserve farm land and small farms. If allowed to become law it could open the door to commercial interests seeing an opportunity to leverage these weakened land use laws and the guardrails in place to protect agricultural and forested land. If this bill were to pass the consequences throughout the State could be dire. Don't allow this bill to leave this committee. Oppose HB 4153.