

Submitter: Clover Wier

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 Clover Wier, and I am a Farm to School Educator in Douglas County, Oregon. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153. Farm stands are a vital part of connecting the school children and the general 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 large agribusiness has taken over our country. We need to promote local businesses to provide more stability to our communities and food systems. Micro and small farms are an amazing way to promote this through local food production. With many mid-sized family farms collapsing throughout our country in recent years and private equity groups buying them up, we will need diversified small-scale farming in order to build farming back up. Small farms can be a vibrant part of our communities. Oregon can lead the way by continuing to allow small farms to have farmstands and other activities at the farms.

We are asking you not have a higher burden on the smallest farms. This bill takes away opportunities from small landholders 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,

Clover Wier  
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