

Submitter: David Gorman

On Behalf Of: Oregon Agriculture

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

Measure, Appointment, or Topic: HB4153

Oregon's Statewide Land Use Planning Goal 3 requires all agricultural lands to be inventoried and preserved by adopting exclusive farm use (EFU) zones. Farm uses allowed on EFU-zoned lands include: raising, harvesting, and selling crops; feeding, breeding, managing, and selling certain animals; and preparing, storing, and disposing of products raised on these lands. Certain nonfarm uses are also allowed on EFU-zoned lands and currently include farm stands under limited circumstances.

I am a farmer on land zoned Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) in Multnomah County. I oppose HB 4153 on the grounds that it nibbles away at Oregon's Statewide Land Use Planning Goal 3 which is intended to protect Oregon's agricultural land from development that would convert it to other uses that do not support the production of agricultural products. HB 4153 may be well intentioned in support of Oregon agriculture, but it either intentionally or unintentionally opens the door to the development of EFU zoned land for a whole host of non-farming activities. I urge the sponsors and the House of Representatives to kill this bill to protect our agricultural land from non-agricultural uses.

Vote "NO" on HB4153.