

Submitter: Jessica Mandt

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 Jessica Mandt and I am a small farmer setting up a farm stand in Beavercreek OR. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153 as it is written and the -2 amendment. Farm stands are a vital part of connecting the public with our food system and building an understanding of what it takes to go from field to fork. But HB 4153 as it is written 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 I have a small farm (less than 10 acres) and want to market direct to the customer. I have bee homesteading a number of years and am just starting to sell farm produce and am setting up a farm stand. Farm stands are critical to local small scale agriculture especially when it is in the challenging beginning stages and this should not be ruined by the new bill HB 4153. My farm would not meet the acreage or income requirements of the new bill. Small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms. My community values small scale farming. It gives community members a chance to buy from each other being able to see and know they are getting high quality and nutritious food. They have a voice and can talk to the farmer about their concerns for their health and the way their food is raised. This is invaluable and needed in our communities. The farm stand is traditionally a small scale farmer way of selling and should not be taken over by larger farms at the expense of the small farmers. It is hard enough for small farmers to sell and make a living as it is and the farm stand which is one of the last ways must not be taken away from them. I am all for truly local farmers (maybe limited to a 10 mile radius) being able to join together to be able to sell products grown on their farms at a single farm store/farm stand on one of their farms. But I don't think farm land should be used as a retail store that sells a lot or a majority of product from other producers across the state or even out of state. Farm land should stay as farm land. The primary purpose of a farm stand or on-farm store needs to be to sell farm products (which need to be grown on the farm or by very local farmers working together) and not become agritourism events.

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

Jessica Mandt  
21341 S Ferguson Rd  
Beavercreek OR 97004