

Submitter: Sarah Deumling
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Members of the Committee,

With my family (4th, 5th and 6th generations of an Oregon Trail family) I own and manage a 1300 acre working family forest in the Eola Hills west of Salem - with several neighboring forests, the largest contiguous piece of forest land remaining in the Willamette Valley. It sits between Salem's sprawl to the east and irreplaceable farmland to the west. Over the 40 years we have lived here so much has changed: so many more homes, so many wineries, many with events as well, so many, many more non-farm uses allowed on farm and forest land. The good old rural towns wither with empty storefronts and residential developments sprawling into former farmland while folks drive distances to work and get the goods and services they need or want.

I beg you urgently to push the pause button on HB 4153 to give the many concerned Oregonians/stakeholders more time to seriously study and understand the consequences of passing this long, complicated and somewhat loosey-goosey proposal. Many terms need to be clarified/defined, consequences, both pro and con, both short term and long term need to be thoroughly evaluated. We need to be sure that new laws we are passing are good for "the many" Oregonians, not just "the few" and good for future generations of Oregonians, not just for folks who need a tax write off or a fun new gig.

Please shelve HB 4153 for the long session next year.

Sincerely,
Sarah Deumling