

Testimony in support of HB 4153-2
Representative Bobby Levy
House District 58

Chairs Helm & Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and members of the committee.

For the record, my name is Bobby Levy, and I am the State Representative for House District 58.

As a farmer, I know how difficult it is to be successful. Not only do you have to make every right decision, but you also have to be lucky. Being a successful farmer in Oregon? It's even more difficult. HB 4153-2 gives farmers the extra tools in their toolbox to be successful.

Today we'll hear from advocates who want to protect EFU zoned land—that is not the full story. This bill won't erode EFU zoned lands. We're losing family farms left and right, farms getting bought up by giant conglomerates, we have to look at all of the options to help our Oregon farmers to be successful.

I have constituents, such as small operations like Muddypaws Farms in Union County, tell me HB 4153-2 will give them the flexibility to be successful—It's my job to listen to them and understand how ignoring this issue will put them out of business.

We aren't losing production land to agri-tourism in this bill, we are ensuring over 50 percent of the land is being farmed in conjunction with agri-tourism, educating those not raised on farms how farms are important to everyone for basic needs and tells our ag families they are important to Oregon.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby Levy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.