

Submitter: Elisabeth Blizzard

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Dear Co-Chair Helms and Co-Chair Owens, Vice Chair McDonald, and Committee Members:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on HB 4135.

I am a resident of unincorporated Washington County and have been an active advocate for smart land use planning since 1989. I strongly oppose HB 4135 for the following reasons:

1. Allowing non-farm uses as primary uses of agricultural land will most definitely encourage the commercialization of some of the best farmland in Oregon, and exacerbate already-declining agriculture in Washington County. We have some of the finest agricultural soils in the country, as well as strong local food and wine markets that rely on local agriculture to survive. We should not be adding additional threats to our farms and small businesses that rely on farms.
2. Having lived in unincorporated Washington County since 1978, I have seen the rapid urbanization and commercialization of the farms in my community. As urban and commercial uses encroach on our rural resource lands, we lose critical wildlife habitat, significant environmental areas, and agricultural entrepreneurs.
3. We should make sure that existing farm stand provisions continue to support farming as the predominant use of agricultural lands.

I urge you to vote NO on HB 4135.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

Sincerely,
Meeky (Elisabeth) Blizzard
Beaverton, OR 97007