



Good. Local. Food.

TO: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
FROM: Medford Food Co-op
SUBJECT: No on HB4153

February 9, 2026

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 Halle Riddlebarger and I'm writing on behalf of Medford Food Co-op. Medford Food Co-op (MFC) is a local community-owned grocery store located in Medford, Oregon. The Co-op is cooperatively-owned by more than 5,000 community members. We feature organic produce from local farmers and a variety of local and regional products, like fresh produce, meat, cheese, beer and wine. MFC's mission is to cultivate a thriving local food economy, and a vibrant, inclusive community.

We are writing today to express our 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.

We care about this because Medford Food Co-op owners and shoppers prioritize community food systems and believe small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their goods as larger farms. In addition to stimulating local economies, farm stands and farm stores incubate and grow small farm businesses and help them reach new customers. Small farms are good for rural economies: generating jobs, income, and cycling more dollars through the local economy than large commodity farms.

We are asking you to not place a higher burden on the smallest farms. We oppose HB 4153 and the -2 amendment because it takes away opportunities from small land holders and farms in favor of larger operations. We demand a more inclusive solution – a solution for Oregon's farm stands should uplift everyone.

Thank you,

Halle Riddlebarger
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