

Submitter: Barbara Skrepitos  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153  
Opposition to HB 4153

My name is Barbara Skrepitos and I am an Oregonian. For 50 years, while living in Ashland, my husband and I worked with various groups to protect Oregon farm lands from development.

I urge you to vote NO on HB 4153.

HB 4153 weakens long-standing protections for Exclusive Farm Use land by allowing nonfarm commercial activities to become a primary use under the label of “farm stores.” This creates incentives for retail and restaurant development on farmland, driving up land costs and undermining farmers who want to farm, while also harming nearby towns that rely on their commercial districts.

Oregon’s land use system has worked for decades to protect farmland and direct commercial growth into cities and towns. HB 4153 moves the state in the wrong direction and risks permanent erosion of EFU protections.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Barbara Skrepitos  
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