

Submitter: Karah Langson

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

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 Karah Langson and I am a beginning Farm Stand Operator in Coos Bay. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153 as it is written and the -2 amendment. Farm stands are a vital part of the local community. The Coos Bay farmers market and local small farms are a backbone to our community. 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.

I care about this because my family is in the beginning stages of producing on our small 7 acre farm. The provisions in this bill clearly only help large farmers and create more obstacles and hurdles to operate farm stands and expand operations for small farmers.

My farm as well as many local a farm stands in our area would not meet the acreage requirements or sales requirements in section 2.2 of the bill.

Small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms.

Why should large acreage farmers gain privileges at the expense of smaller acre farmers?

Why should a small farm be any less legitimate than a large farm when it comes to defining farm use?

We are asking you to not have a higher burden on the smallest farms. This bill takes away opportunities from small land holders and farms in order for larger operations to be able to host more events. This is not a good bargain for Oregon and a better deal must be found.

Thank you,

Karah Langson

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