

Submitter: Nancy Ashmead

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

As a public servant, it is your job to serve the public good. This bill restricts farms that don't meet your requirements and in my view it does NOT serve the public good.

There are too many bills in the last few years that are preferential to corporations and large agri-businesses but leave the smaller businesses out of the picture. Why not allow the kind of smaller scale outfits and start-up farms to participate in free enterprise and the important relationships neighbors should have a right to have with their community? We need to encourage many more start-up farms and small family farms if we're going to survive and thrive in these challenging economic times. This bill and the -2 amendment does not, in my opinion, serve the public good but instead locks many potential connections and small commercial exchanges from the playing field. We need, instead, to do much to encourage the freer flow of money throughout our communities, and this can be done effectively without the restrictive requirements baked into this bill.

Penalizing small farmers for not being able to afford more land, being early on in their farm business journey, or telling folks they aren't allowed to gather the community at their farm because they are small is NOT the way to support Oregon families.

Oregon businesses of any size, especially farmers should have freedom to engage in meaningful ways with others around the food we produce. This strikes me as a very basic right.

You can do better! Please vote no on HB 4153.

Thank you for your consideration.