

Submitter: Karyn Kell
On Behalf Of: small farms
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or HB4153
Topic:

My Name is Karyn Kell and I am a descendant of people who have owned small farms and I support small farms currently in how I purchase food and I how choose to have experiences (getting out of Portland and into nearby rural areas). 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 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.

I was fortunate to witness and work on my grandparents' small cattle ranch on my mother's side and a small organic blueberry farm on my father's side in Oregon. They were committed to hard, honest work 7 days a week year-round. Now, because food is typically provided on so many large-scale farming/ranching operations, their children and grandchildren who run the ranch/farm are finding it difficult to almost-impossible to keep going financially. In fact, they have second jobs to keep their ranch/farm afloat. Why would you disallow them - or anyone in a similar position – to NOT sell products/items that would enhance their income and, likely, spread the word about their businesses? As we know, items with the business name on it, can be a conversation starter that encourages other people ask about a place and, in turn, possibly end up visiting or buying from them. Events and experiences at small farms can be just as, or even more impactful. I feel it is CRUCIAL TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO STAY CONNECTED TO FOOD SOURCES AND BEAUTIFUL OREGON. Do you? It's a way to keep connection- have people care about each other, the land and the farmers that provide food and basic nourishment. Also, the amount of nourishment to one's soul for being outside, connected to the Earth – well, that's just as important and visiting rural areas, farms and ranches promotes this as well as tourism of our beautiful state. Please consider re-writing this bill, for there are some very good parts to it, but don't forget the small folks. Please represent ALL FARMERS.

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,

Karyn Kell