

Submitter: Jennifer Brennan
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

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 Jennifer Brennan and I am a community member in Eugene. 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 care about this because I frequently go to a farm stand that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill a couple of times a week and almost exclusively to buy fruit, vegetables, grains, nuts, eggs, cheese and other products. Small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms.

We need small farms to support our community's food supply and keep it local, along with supporting all kinds of farmers, including non-profits like Food for Lane County. This would also support a diversity of crops, especially specialty, unique or seasonal crops. I want to see these farmers help support the local food supply and keeping the money in our community while providing jobs..I feel a lot of the smaller farms in our area focus on quality farming, helping to protect our environment with their smaller scale farming practices. Large acreage farmers would gain privileges at the expense of smaller acre farmers. Which in turn would hurt the small farms profit and business as a whole, potentially taking away jobs and potential income. Not to mention the intent of the farm stands is to buy produce at these small farms. 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,

Jennifer Brennan

Eugene, OR