

- My Name is Constance Huff and I am a community member of the McKenzie River Valley. 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. Small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms. Our local farm stand plays an important role in our community as a source of fresh healthy food and a community meeting place. It is beneficial to us too have the opportunity to purchase fresh healthy food locally without having to drive 35 miles into town to ship for fresh produce. The acreage of a farm should not determine what privileges they are due.

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 for your attention.

Respectfully yours,

Constance Huff  
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