

Submitter: Stephanie Wicks  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Hi, my name is Stephanie Wicks and I am a community member in Eugene that buys from and supports the local farm business in my surrounding area. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153 as it is written and the -2 amendment. Farm stands are an important part of connecting the public with our food system and building an understanding of what it takes to feed a community. The farther we get from this understanding the less we will invest in each other and the soil on the planet and ultimately earth. 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, industrial farming with a penchant for profits more than people.

I care about this because I enjoy driving our rural roads in Oregon and stopping at a farmers stand, I regularly buy from farmers that would not meet the new acreage threshold. Oregon is about all businesses and the independence to compete in the community against the big guy, our food like our health (can't separate the two) shouldn't be a profit center for things like agritourism. Let farmers decide how to educate their community and invite interest not just for profit.

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,  
Stephanie Wicks  
841 W 36th Ave., Eugene