

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

My Name is Becky Mundt and I am a small nursery owner and community member in Eugene Oregon.

I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153 as it is written and the -2 amendment.

Farm stands have always been a vital part of our rural Oregon community life and this bill jeopardizes their future, benefits large land holders and penalizes small start up and small acreage holding farmers without any good reason to do so.

Should this bill replace our current no permit required standing for on site farm stands, it will remove a whole segment of the local food producing community without even recognizing it has done so, and as it is currently written this is precisely what it does.

I for one, am not interested in large land holders and concert venues. I am interested in supporting and sustaining our local food shed and the farmers and dedicated people who bring us this huge important benefit.

The majority of the farms I frequent are smaller. They are family run and would either not qualify at all or would be severely limited by the requirements of this bill.

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.

I strongly believe small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms.

Our local smaller farms provide us with early and late season variety and freshness that extends our fresh eating season and gives us great value for our money.

We know our local small farmers, how they farm and what methods they use and we

trust the food they grow to be clean, organic, healthy and vital.

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,

Becky Mundt
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