

My Name is Jean Kang and I am a member of my community in Portland, Oregon. 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 deeply about this issue because small farms deserve the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms. Small acreage farming is not less legitimate simply because it operates on fewer acres. A farm is defined by what it produces and contributes, not by its size.

Small farming is important to me because it supports ecological diversity, resilient local food systems, and responsible land stewardship. Many small farms prioritize sustainable practices, biodiversity, and community connection in ways that are essential to the long-term health of our environment and local economy.

Large acreage farmers should not gain new privileges at the expense of smaller acre farmers. Small farms have the right to operate, exist, and thrive. Policies that narrow the definition of "farm use" risk excluding precisely the kinds of farms that many community members actively want to support.

I believe small farms should be considered just as legitimate as large farms when it comes to defining farm use, including the ability to sell what they produce. I love the idea of stopping by a farm stand to purchase fresh produce directly from the people who grow it. These experiences, along with farmstand offerings like baked goods, jams, and other value-added goods, create meaningful connections between farmers and their communities and help keep small farms financially viable.

Protecting the rights of small farms ensures access to local food, preserves rural character, and reflects the values of community members who care about sustainability, fairness, and local economies.

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,

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