

Submitter: Rachel Fackler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Greetings,

I've had the honor of being a former employee of Blackberry Bog Farm. I've seen it grow from two tables at Thursday markets to the flourishing business it is today. It's even represented as a tourism destination on blue highway 30 signs. It's a location that not only caters to locals, but warmly welcomes visitors from all over. They've supported salmon studies in the creek running through their property and offered their land to local bee keepers. They've donated to charities and auctions, offered farm to table culinary experiences, and supplied businesses across Clatsop County with fresh produce. They're more than a business, they're active members of this beautiful community and they go out of their way to help it prosper.

This bill would bring to a halt these gifts to our county.

I hope that you will consider modifying the bill to be more inclusive of small and beginning farms, as well as those farms that don't meet the proposed acreage requirements due to natural constraints such as hilly woodlands and wetlands. THERE ARE MANY TYPES OF FARMS IN OREGON, AND THIS BILL NEEDS TO WORK FOR ALL FARMERS. We already have limited access to fresh, locally grown produce here on the North Coast, and this bill would decrease that even further.

I am a PROUD supporter of the farmers in our community and do not want to see access to the wonderful food they grow limited because of their size, or the trees, hills and wetlands that make up our beautiful corner of the State.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

With sincerity and gratitude for your time,

Former Employee of Blackberry Bog Farm
Current School Teacher
Astoria Raised

Rachel Fackler