

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

HB 4153 is not good for small farms - speak up to demand a better solution for Oregon's farm stands

There is a hearing for HB 4153 coming on Wednesday 2/4/26 and another on 2/9/26. Although many folks in the FoFF community are excited at the prospect of having more freedom to host events at their farmstands, FoFF cannot support a bill that would take away opportunities from small and beginning farmers.

This bill contains a provision that states that a parcel zoned EFU of for Farm and Forest use cannot have a farmstand unless:

The parcel is 80 acres or more and has at least 45 acres in production

The parcel is 40-79.99 acres and has at least 25 acres in production

The parcel is 20-39.99 acres and has at least 15 acres in production

Is less than 20 acres and either

Has at least 10 acres in production, or

Has cumulative gross sales of at least

\$40,000 (in the current text) or

\$10,000 (in the proposed amendments -1, and -2) from farm products in the last 2 years.

This would close existing farm stands who are following the law right now but are too small to meet these requirements. This bill replaces all current language around farm stands implying that folks with an honesty system stand at the end of their driveway with garden overflow (zucchinis in august, a couple pints of berries, or a sign saying eggs \$6!) would be outlawed by this approach. Why are we giving more privileges to large land owners and telling small operations that they are not allowed to have a farm stand?

There is so much more going into this, you can read our whole position here. We want to find solutions for farmers to diversify their income, but limiting who is allowed to participate in farm stands/stores because of their size is counter to the community food system. Why are we penalizing small farmers for not being able to afford more land, being early on in their farm business journey, or telling folks that they aren't allowed to gather the community at their farm because they are small?

Sincerely, Tracy Trainer