

Submitter: Haley Pearson

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water:

My Name is Haley and I am a community memory in Eugene, Oregon. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153. 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 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 am driven to comment about this because I believe that giving farms of all shapes and sizes access to the public is extremely important in a community like ours. In communities across the world, it is common for very small farmers to be able to sell their goods and produce at the end of their driveway or in a small farm stand. The way this bill is phrased restricts that right to farmers have only a certain size which is a terrible mistake. I have lived and visited in many places where these little farm stands are so special and so magical for the community and I have been proud that Oregon is one of them. I am acquainted personally with several different farm stands in the area that are attached to small farms and hardworking families , and they already faced so many challenges in maintaining their farms, why would we make their livelihood even harder than it already is? And restrict the ways in which they can connect in smaller ways with members of our community.

I frequently go to farm stands all over the state that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill.

Small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms.

Why should acreage farmers gain privileges at the expense of smaller acre farmers? 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,

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