

Submitter: Debbie Jahn

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

I am writing to express my support for HB 4153 and the role it plays in allowing Oregon farms to continue hosting harvest activities that bring families together.

As a mom, I have spent years taking my own children to local farm events — pumpkin patches, train rides, pig races, farm animal petting zoo, hay rides, corn mazes, and haunted corn mazes. These experiences were never just outings; they became traditions that created lasting memories for our family. Now my children are grown and starting families of their own, and they want to share those same meaningful experiences with the next generation.

Today, I also see the value of agritourism from a professional perspective. I work for The Melon Shack in Corvallis, where I help schedule school field trips, birthday parties, and family days on the farm. Every season, I watch children learn where their food comes from, families reconnect outdoors, and communities come together in a positive and healthy environment. These activities support local agriculture while giving families a safe place to gather, learn, and celebrate Oregon's farming heritage.

In addition, harvest festivals and agritourism events create valuable jobs within our local communities. Many farms provide first-time employment opportunities for young people who are learning responsibility, teamwork, and customer service skills. Seasonal events also create jobs for parents, retirees, and others looking for flexible work. These opportunities strengthen the local economy while helping individuals gain confidence and real-world experience in a supportive environment.

Harvest activities like pumpkin patches, hay rides, and corn mazes are more than entertainment — they are educational opportunities, economic support for local farms, and traditions that strengthen family bonds. HB 4153 helps ensure that farms can continue offering these experiences while staying viable for future generations.

I respectfully encourage you to support HB 4153 so that Oregon families — including my grandchildren — can continue to enjoy the traditions that make our communities special.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Debbie Jahn