

Submitter: Shannon Kane  
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 Shannon Kane and I am the owner of Wild Grown Farm, a diverse pastured poultry farm, small scale poultry processing facility, and plant nursery in Redmond, Oregon. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153 as it is written and the -2 amendment. While we strongly support agritourism, specifically farmsteads, and see the vital role they play in creating a strong local food system, we cannot support this bill as it is currently written. This bill will 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!

It's important that Oregon continues to encourage new/beginning farmers and small-scale diverted farming operations in the state. The acreage/income requirements in this bill are not only arbitrary but they place a higher burden on small farmers to participate in using farmsteads as a viable revenue stream. Effectively, even if a small farm can meet the income requirements outlined in this bill, we wouldn't be able to operate our farmstead until the 3rd season, which unnecessarily disadvantages us small producers. Additionally, under no circumstances should farmers who are selling their own products, direct to consumers, be required to get a permit to sell. We operate a CSA program with on-farm pick up and this language in this bill is concerning because while it doesn't explicitly mention our scenario, it could be left open to interpretation by our county that restricts our ability to do this.

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,

Shannon Kane  
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