

Submitter: Dan Jaffee

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and Committee Members:

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on HB 4153, and also the -2 amendment. HB 4153 as it is written would restrict who is allowed to have a farm stand in Oregon, replace current definitions with Farm Stores, and give large land owners new privileges, while shockingly taking away those same rights from small farm stands in Oregon. This is simply unacceptable.

I frequently shop at small, local farm stands across Oregon that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill. I specifically do this because I enjoy meeting and talking with small farmers, I want to support them economically and enable them to earn income from their smallholdings, and I want to support a diverse, small-scale, sustainable food system with a diversity of crops. Why should large-acreage farmers gain privileges at the expense of these small-scale farmers?

This bill is misguided. It will greatly harm a vital pillar of Oregon's rural economy by removing basic rights and opportunities from the smallest farmers, while granting more rights to large landowners in order to be able to host more events. This does not make sense, and it is not a good bargain for Oregon. Surely there is a better solution that facilitates some events in rural areas without harming sustainable, small-scale farming. Please vote NO on HB 4153.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Dan Jaffee