

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

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 Teressa and I am a community member in Eugene, OR. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153 as it is written and the -2 amendment. 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 as it is written 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 care about this because small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms. I often pick up eggs and produce from small stands, including those that operate on the honor system, when I am out and about around town and in the nearby country. These farms should have the same right to sell their produce directly from their farm as larger operations. In fact, we should be encouraging, not discouraging, small farms and the productive use of our agricultural lands no matter the size of the operation. Food security, food quality, variety, and more are reasons I value production on these farm lands. They should not be discriminated against for their size.

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,

Teressa Trusty
Eugene, OR