

Submitter: Erica Thompson

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Dear House Committee On Agricultural, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water;

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 4153.

I'm a second-generation farmer in Benton County writing in support of this bill. While I agree with the other small farmers I've recently spoken with that this bill would place a disproportionately sized burden of proof for the smallest farms that want to have a farm store, I believe the pros of this bill outweigh the cons. I feel that the existing regulations are overly restrictive and that, in many cases, they do not square with the goal of keeping farms in production. The social, economic, and climatic conditions within which farms operate have changed in many ways over the past several decades. HB 4153 takes a more realistic approach and would allow farmers more flexibility in how they can earn farm-based income, which in turn will help farms remain viable and sustainable far into the future.

Sincerely,
Erica Thompson
Blueberry Meadows