

Submitter: Jeremy Goldstein

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

My Name is Jeremy Goldstein and I am a Springfield community member. 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

I frequently shop at small farm stands that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill. - These are generally smaller 'Mom & Pop' style establishments that should not be forced to jump through any additional administrative or financial hurdles in order to make such minimal profits.

Small farms need to have the same opportunities, if not greater opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms. - This measure is a short-sighted overreach that aims to stifle small businesses and local food sources in our community. I wholeheartedly disagree with this measure as it is currently written/proposed.

Small Local farms serve as a backbone to our community. They help keep our money local. They don't generate nearly the amount of environmental or carbon footprint (ie: goods aren't driven hundreds/thousands of miles in order to reach the customers that might purchase them)

Furthermore, Small farms and farm stands often donate a substantial portion of their unsold food to local Food Aid services (Food For Lane County, Egan Warming Centers, etc) - This provides a critical service to the less fortunate in our community and allows us to take care of one another without adding additional barriers/obstacles to the process.

Farmers in this country are already some of the most vulnerable in our workforce. (Just look at suicide rates within the profession) - Their success is often literally being determined by the weather, and the efforts of large agricultural operations and their lobbyists have already made it incredibly difficult on small farmers. Why are we making it harder for everyday people who are just trying to help service their community or make a few extra dollars for the effort that they've put into their

gardens?

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,

Jeremy Goldstein

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