

Submitter: JB Hoover

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

My Name is JB Hoover and I am the Parish Administrator of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Eugene. We are the site of the 2 1/2 acre Grass Roots Garden operated by Food for Lane County. The GrassRoots Garden produces over 50,000 lbs of fresh produce a year for Food Banks throughout Lane County. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153 as it is written and the -2 amendments. 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 go to a farm stand that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill. Also, small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms. I greatly enjoy visiting farm stands in summer, interacting with the farmers operating the stands, learning about where the food comes from and what it takes to produce it, and of course enjoying the delicious produce when I get back home. Nearly all of these stands are operated by small farmers who would not meet the acreage requirements of the the bill.

I have discussed this matter with others at my church. They share my view 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,

J.B. Hoover  
891 Tyson Lane  
Eugene OR 97404