

Submitter: Valiant Tancredi
On Behalf Of: EZ Orchards Harvestfest
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

To: Senator Thatcher
Representative Munoz
House Committee on Agriculture
Re: House Bill 4153

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My wife and I have worked at EZ Orchards Harvestfest for 12 Novembers and are proud of the lasting memories we have helped create for thousands of local Oregon students often educating children of parents who visited as students 20 years ago! I drive tractor and conduct field tour of the orchard, pumpkin patch and corn maze sharing information about horticulture, geography and agriculture. We also stress the importance of our family farms growing these crops and that our food comes from the soil and not from the supermarket. In the apple orchard each student is schooled in how to properly pick an apple so not to remove the fruiting spur and that all are hand picked by our workers. We review the seasonal horticultural practices of pruning for light penetration, spring pollination by bees, summer growth through photosynthesis, sprinkler irrigation, harvest-packing and delivery to local supermarkets. We teach the students and their parents that our food comes from the soil of local farms and NOT from the store.

Our GPS cut pathways in the corn maize are the roadways of Oregon with city signage not only helping them find their way but also informing them about the stories of the city. All this education continues with fun on slides, the petting zoo after washing their hands with fresh apple cider and signature EZ Orchards apple cider doughnuts! Many schools from Eugene to Sheridan bring their lunches and make class photographs to commerate the occasion. Our focus on education and fun is a bit unique to other Harvestfest in the Valley which all of the EZ Harvestfest team is very proud of the lasting memories we help create.

I urge your support for this bill so we make continue the work.

Val and Joanne Tancredi

Salem, OR