

Submitter: Linda Wilson

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

As a former Salem-Keizer kindergarten teacher one of the greatest memories of teaching was the yearly trip to the EZ Orchards pumpkin patch...it was the culmination to our fall science unit on pumpkins, lifecycle of a pumpkin & farm-to-market. The children I taught did not often get opportunities to experience these type of activities. Knowledgeable farmers/tractor drivers taught the children about apples growing in the orchard, seasons, irrigation & bee pollination. They were able to go on a tractor pulled hayride, pick an apple, choose a pumpkin, travel a corn maze laid out like Oregon, visit a petting zoo and the best part...apple cider made from apples from the orchard they just visited and apple cider doughnuts as a special treat! When I retired several of my former students were asked what their best memories were of my class...going to the pumpkin patch was a favorite response! Since retirement I have been the one to hand out the cider and doughnuts to many excited students (and adults) who continue to visit EZ Orchards every October...I knew exactly what I wanted to do after retirement so that I could still be around students and experience their joy at visiting the pumpkin patch! The HarvestFest at EZ Orchards and all the accompanying events provide so many opportunities for school children and the community at large...agritourism at its finest! Please support the passing of HB 4153 to help accomplish the goals and the needs of the farming community.