

Submitter: Jasmine Boyd
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or HB4153
Topic:

I am writing in opposition to HB 4153, the Farm Store Bill, as it is currently written.

While the bill includes some positive provisions, the proposed income and property-size thresholds would negatively affect small farms and community-based agricultural spaces that are currently allowed to sell through on-site farm stands. These restrictions would make it much harder, and in some cases impossible, for small and beginning farms to sell what they grow directly to the public, further threatening local food security.

I have volunteered at Grassroots Garden, a community garden in Eugene, Oregon, and I have seen firsthand how vital spaces like this are to the community. Grassroots Garden is not just a place where food is grown—it is a place where people from many different backgrounds come together to do meaningful, restorative work. Both my brothers and I have volunteered there, and it has been an important place for learning responsibility, cooperation, and care for others. This garden provides supportive volunteer opportunities for local students, foster youth, and people working to rebuild their lives after involvement with the justice system, and community members seeking connection, structure, and purpose. This work fosters dignity, personal growth, and a sense of belonging, while strengthening the broader community.

In addition, Grassroots Garden helps provide food to Food for Lane County, directly supporting individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. The ability for small farms and community gardens to sell directly to the public through on-site farm stands helps make this work sustainable. Limiting that ability would have ripple effects far beyond individual farms, harming food access, education, and community stability.

Small farms and community gardens function as essential community hubs. I urge you to oppose HB 4153 unless it is significantly amended to protect small farms, community gardens, and the local food systems they support.

Thank you for your time and consideration.