

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water:

My Name is Candace Hunter and I am a FARMER/RANCHER/COMMUNITY MEMBER/FARM STAND OPERATOR in Springfield. 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 rely on small farmers to feed my family. The CSA we get from our local Youth Farm contains affordable, high-quality fruits and vegetables that feed our family through the whole year. Because they're a small farm, they can keep their prices reasonably low, allowing our family to benefit incredibly. I am afraid that HB 4153 section 2.2 will stop our little Youth Farm from being able to sell produce to families like ours because they don't have enough acreage, and that would be an incredible loss to us and our community. I'm also afraid that our family's favorite orchards, almost all of which are small, family-run fruit farms, will also be prevented from providing to our community.

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,

Candace Hunter
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