

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

I'm writing to strongly oppose HB4153, The Farm Store Bill. In its current form, the bill severely disadvantages small farmers.

This bill contains a provision that states that a parcel zoned EFU of for Farm and Forest use cannot have a farmstand unless:

The parcel is 80 acres or more and has at least 45 acres in production
The parcel is 40-79.99 acres and has at least 25 acres in production
The parcel is 20-39.99 acres and has at least 15 acres in production
Is less than 20 acres and either
Has at least 10 acres in production, or
Has cumulative gross sales of at least
\$40,000 (in the current text) or
\$10,000 (in the proposed amendments -1, and -2) from farm products in the last 2 years.

This would close existing farm stands who are following the law right now but are too small to meet these requirements. The bill would replace all current language around farm stands implying that folks with an honesty system stand at the end of their driveway with garden overflow (zucchinis in August, a couple pints of berries, or a sign saying eggs \$6!) would be outlawed by this approach. Why are we giving more privileges to large land owners and telling small operations that they are not allowed to have a farm stand? With this bill you are supporting Amazon over Main Street.

Thank you for considering these comments. Please vote no on HB4153.