

Submitter: Rachel Pompe

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

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 Rachel Pompe and I am a community member in Sherwood, Oregon. 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 believe that small farms deserve the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms. As I drive through rural communities in the Willamette Valley, I see many small farms with stands at the end of their driveway advertising eggs, honey, flowers, and so forth. I do not want to penalize those farmers, and I want the opportunity to purchase fresh local products from neighbors if I so desire.

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,

Rachel Pompe
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