

Submitter: Twlia Pierson

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 Twila Pierson and I am a community member in Astoria, 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.

Small farmers matter in my community because they put food directly into people's hands and keep our local economy moving. Through my work managing a weekly farmers market at a local non profit in the food system, I see how small farms show up week after week. These farmers aren't just vendors, they're neighbors who care about feeding their community.

Small farms also help people feel connected to where their food comes from and who is growing it. That connection builds trust, supports farm families, and helps keep our local food system strong and rooted here. Why should large-acreage farmers have privileges that smaller farms do not? Why should small farms be treated as less legitimate than large farms when it comes to defining farm use?

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,

Twlia Pierson
90656 Hwy 202
Astoria, OR 97103