

Submitter: Snow Blackwood

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

I support HB 4153 because I value local farms, agritourism, and the essential role farms play in Oregon family life, culture, and economy.

I grew up on a farm for the first eight years of my life in Clackamas County near Buckner Creek. My father worked as a farmhand on a ten-plus acre property with sheep, goats, cows, and chickens. After that, we moved to a neighboring five-acre property where my parents grew grapes, raspberries, wildflowers, potatoes, and a wide variety of vegetables. Farming was not an abstract concept in my childhood—it was daily life.

Every summer, my mother took us strawberry picking. Not only because it was a meaningful family tradition, but because we needed the income we earned from picking. These experiences shaped my understanding of hard work, land stewardship, and the economic realities of farming families.

As an adult and now as a mother of two, I've continued this connection to Oregon farms—visiting Sauvie Island farms and the Hood River Fruit Loop with my children, passing down the same appreciation for local agriculture that I was given. These farms are not just businesses; they are places of learning, tradition, and community.

My father was practicing farm-to-table long before it became a trend—buying crops directly from farmers and delivering food door-to-door to families. That model depended on thriving local farms, just as many Oregon families still do today.

Oregon farms are a tremendous asset to our families, our land, our economy, and our shared history. Policies that restrict agritourism or make it harder for farms to remain viable threaten more than livelihoods—they threaten a way of life that has sustained generations.

I urge you to support HB 4153 and protect the future of Oregon's farms and farming families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Snow Blackwood