

Submitter: Kayleigh Hillert
On Behalf Of: Moon River Farm
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 Kayleigh Hillert and I am a certified organic vegetable farmer in Nehalem. 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 making a living as a small acreage farmer is already very difficult and there are many barriers to success for small farmers. Having the ability to have a farm stand is vital to keeping access open to community members who work and it allows farmers to be working while having a sales outlet at the same time.

Small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms at the very least.

Why should large acreage farmers gain privileges at the expense of smaller acre farmers?

Why should a small farm be any less legitimate than a large farm when it comes to defining farm use?

My farm is in a community that is geographically isolated and full of retirees. Our farm is a gathering point for isolated individuals and a hub of resources for other growers. There is not a lot of ideally situated land for vegetable farming nor are the land use laws written to consider this type of agriculture. This makes our farm uniquely situated to provide produce and connection 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,
Kayleigh Hillert
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