

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 Dr. Dawn Nafus. I was recently laid off by Intel and am now looking to begin a second career in farming. I am deeply opposed to HB 4153 as it is written and the -2 amendment.

I know how vital it is to have off-farm supplemental income--as a prospective farmer I want this too. But this bill is not designed for people who actually farm. It is designed for property developers to more easily speculate on land, with no meaningful safeguards that ensure that the primary purpose remains farming.

I am particularly concerned that the smallest farms would be unable to have farm stands simply because the permitting is so poorly designed that it would require them already make significant money in order get permitted. How are you supposed to make enough money without a farmstand to do it? This circular illogic tilts the playing field in the wrong direction. It is anti-competitive and makes a mockery what "agrotourism" should look like.

This bill would effectively put and end to my much longed for second career.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dawn Nafus
Portland