

HB 4153 Support Letter

Dear Representative Rick Lewis, Senator Fred Girod, House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water:

I am writing in support of House Bill 4153. I grew up with local farmstands like Bauman's Farm and Garden, Willamette Valley Pie Co., and E.Z. Orchards close by. From visiting for field trips in elementary school to later working for one while in college. These establishments are incredibly beneficial for the community in a number of ways. They provide jobs, support the local economy, and create wonderful memories for patrons. As a child it was always a treat to visit a farm stand at all times of the year whether it was for a pumpkin patch, a sweet treat, or regular grocery shopping. Supporting these small businesses leads to a thriving community. Agriculture is a huge part of the state of Oregon, and I am proud to be an Oregonian who supports small farm stands. These farm stands have provided me with many happy memories from my childhood as well as meaningful employment during my college years. I am proud to support these businesses after they have supported me. The families behind them have been in Oregon for generations and have made so many contributions to their communities and the state as a whole socially and economically for years and, I hope, for the foreseeable future. To pass legislation that would lead to the extinction of these businesses is unthinkable. Family legacies and livelihoods would be destroyed. Many community members shop at farmstands because they know exactly where their money is going and where the product is coming from. Freedom of choice is extremely important for citizens, and having local options run by people they know is what helps communities thrive.

Agriculture is the backbone of this nation, and Oregon is no exception. These families have worked tirelessly for generations and to tear it away is nothing but a slap in the face from the state they call home. Allowing these businesses to operate has far more benefits than drawbacks. The state has lost enough farms in recent years. They are already a dying breed trying to feed their local communities, home state, and even the nation. To have them go extinct is something that cannot be reversed and will have unimaginable consequences.

Sincerely,

Abigail Dummer, Silverton, Oregon