

Submitter: Emelie Shay

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Dear Representative Annessa Heartman,

I am writing to you as in support of HB4153. Working for a farmstand has changed my outlook completely on how farming and agritourism has such an impact on each individual. I grew up in a different state but always visited Oregon in the summer. While visiting, I never thought much of the impact all those fields I passed by actually have on my own life. Fast forward to 2020 I got a job at E.Z. Orchards farmstand. During my 5 years there, I witnessed so much from family traditions at the pumpkin patch in October, to small children being excited about local strawberries in June. I remember constantly thinking how my childhood was extremely different then kids who grow up in Oregon. I didn't have these opportunities to learn about the different kinds of apples, berries, pumpkins, or vegetables and where they came from (the majority being from their home state). Farm stands not only give direct grower to consumer relationships, but they give a rich education, and lasting memories that continue on.

The community visits these farmstands to create memories, share a local bite, and also learn about the food they bring home to their families. The hayrides at the pumpkin patch not only create an attraction to these farm stands, they create a memory and consumers get a direct sight on how these farms operate throughout each season. E.Z. Orchards also hosts school tours for students during October which is another educational contribution to the Oregon community.

I am in support and I'm urging you to be in support of HB4153 because it supports the farmers and their stands who are the start of our food, education, and lives here in Oregon. I can't stress enough how memorable farmstands like E.Z. Orchards are in this state. They create a space where there is not only learning and memories, but a space where people can buy food from people who care. These farmers are not only just farmers. They are friends, brothers, sisters, parents, family, local, loving, and caring all under the same roof. There is no denying the care and effort they give to the Oregon community and the HB4153 will help these stands continue to give Oregon the food, education, and memories this state needs.

Thank you for taking the time and effort to help pass HB4153.

Sincerely,

Emelie Shay, Oregon City, Oregon