

Submitter: Blanca Garcia Rinder  
On Behalf Of: Sister Garden Flower 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 Blanca Garcia-Rinder and I am a farmer and farm stand operator in the city of Portland. 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 I operate a farm stand that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill.

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

As a small urban farmer I depend on my farm stand for the majority of my income, sustaining my low income family. Even larger small farms deserve to be able to have a farm stand. The farm store language and requirements are not suitable.

Why should large acreage farmers gain privileges at the expense of smaller acre farmers? The bill should be revised.

A small farm is just as legitimate as any any large farm when it comes to defining farm use. We all start somewhere and small farms tend to be centered in urban vicinities, helping reduce transport and the environmental effects of doing so.

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 (we no longer frequent those farms precisely because of this bill and their exclusionary practices for BIPOC and low income folks). This is not a good bargain for Oregon and a better deal must be found.

Thank you,

Blanca Garcia-Rinder

Owner / operator / farmer  
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