

Submitter: Alex Herman

On Behalf Of:

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 Alex Herman and I am a farmer in Hood River. I am opposed HB 4153 and the -2 amendment. Farm stands are a vital part of connecting our local community with our food system and building an understanding of what it takes to go from field to fork. But HB 4153 would restrict who is allowed to have a farm stand, replace current definitions with Farm Stores, and give preference to large land owners while punishing small land owners.

I operate a small acre farm with livestock and hay production and though I do not currently run a farm stand, I am angry that my ability to do so will be made near impossible by this new legislation. More importantly, I am upset that my friends and neighbors that run farm stands in the area will be negatively impacted by this.

Agritourism (while unfortunately popular in my area) should not be the primary purpose of farm stands. It should be getting locally grown foods to people which directly benefits the farmer and the customer. This bill does not reflect that value.

Putting a higher burden on Oregon's smallest farms would be a terrible path to take. Allowing larger farms to run events and sell tickets is not what farm stands and farm to table values are about.

Thank you,
Alex Herman