

Submitter: Katie Marsh
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or HB4153
Topic:

Good morning, my Name is Katie Marsh, I am a sixth generation small farmer and 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 bill because I feel that as a life long food grower believe that Oregon can and should have a sustainable food supply given our unique region and resources.

After growing up on the largest strawberry farm in the PNW and watching it go bankrupt I understand the importance of diversifying one's revenue but I do not believe that building mega Disneyland "farm stores" is the solution we all are looking for. The small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms do. Having a farm stand on every corner should be a goal for the longevity and security of our communities.

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. This is not a good bargain for Oregon and a better deal must be found.

Thank you,
Katie Marsh
Two Flowers Farm LLC
503-619-5959