

Submitter: Audrey Leonard
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 NAME and I am a FARMER/RANCHER/COMMUNITY MEMBER/FARM STAND OPERATOR in TOWN. 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 grew up on a farm in Indiana and deeply care about Oregon's small scale agriculture. This will negatively affect small farms in Oregon that I rely on for food and other goods.

I frequently go to 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.

Small farms are better for our ecosystems and environment, and give us the chance to connect more deeply with our food and farmers.

Large acreage farmers should not gain privileges at the expense of smaller acre farmers, and large farms should have to be accountable to their neighbors for operations that impact surrounding farms.

Agrotourism should be done responsibly, without opening the door for developers to masquerade as farms, in order to preserve the integrity of Oregon's small farming 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,
Audrey Leonard
Portland, OR