

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or HB4105
Topic:

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 AL and I am a community member living on Sauvie Island in Portland, OR. 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 can see first hand how important small farms are to the community and how larger, well-funded operations are continuing to skirt the rules and attempt to change regulations to move toward agritourism over actual farming.

I live in close proximity to many small acreage farms that would be excluded from the requirements in section 2.2 of this bill. Those smaller farms are naturally going to struggle next to wealthy, well-marketed larger farms that use their power and community influence to push legislation like this in order to move further and further away from actually farming the land. These small farms are a huge source of community and vitality here on Sauvie Island and many of us do not want to live next to Knott's Berry Farm but instead want accessible fresh food grown by our neighbors readily available and able to succeed since we are 15+ miles from larger grocery stores. I want small farms to thrive as they feed our community in so many ways!

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,

AL