

Submitter: Jennifer Davis

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Dear Legislators,

I am a small scale organic vegetable farmer, and I very adamantly oppose HB 4153 because it favors big money farms over small farms. It could be devastating for new, young farmers and serious older farmers who have smaller plots. The average age of a farmer in this country is 60 years old. The cost of farmland is skyrocketing, in large part to the domination of big money and out of state investors grabbing our precious arable land. Young small farmers are having a harder and harder time accessing land and having real opportunities to grow food. WE NEED YOUNG FARMERS so that our future generations can eat healthy foods! Our ecosystem benefits as well from well-run farms which provide forage and habitat for millions of creatures- from healthy soil organisms to raptors and bees.

As climate change continues to drive droughts and fires, and hunger increases in our state due to bad economic pressures- we need to protect our small farmers more than ever. Every person growing food for others is a crucial asset- growing food sustainably is extremely challenging and we need to support those who have the knowledge, energy and will to do so, especially our young farmers who will feed our future. By giving special privileges and opportunities to large farm operations, without regard to the impact on small farms and also denying small farms opportunities- this sets the stage for the most wealthy and powerful dominating our agriculture for profit - and our youth and knowledgeable hard working smaller farmers losing out.

Thank you,
Jen Davis
Scout Bee Farm