

Submitter: Kathryn Arblaster

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Hello my name is Kathryn Arblaster and I am a first generation farmer and farm stand operator on Sauvie Island. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153 as it is written and the -2 amendment.

Farm shops can be a vital part of connecting the public with our food system, building connection and education, and supporting the next generation of farmers. But HB 4153 as it is written would restrict who is allowed to have a farm shops, or plans to build one in the future, and give large land owners privileges at the expense of small farms shops in Oregon. You need to find a better solution.

I am also opposed to the restrictions put on small farms, like myself, where small farms would be unable to build or use existing Farm Shops to offer classes at their farms.

I care about this because I operate a small farm that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill. I would also be restricted from building a Farm Shop to offer classes on bee keeping, jam making, seed starting and other agritourism activities that I would like to do. I'd also be unable to build a covered farm shop building if I needed to expand my road side farm stand operations.

I am 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.

Please rewrite this to allow small, first generation, and beginner farmers the ability to thrive and succeed.

Thank you,  
Kathryn Arblaster  
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