

Submitter: Jenny Jonak

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

I am writing in opposition to the current form of HB 4153.

I own a farm in the Willamette Valley that would meet the income and land requirements for production in the bill as currently framed. However, as an equity access issue, I am concerned about beginning farmers or small farmers who will face barriers because they haven't been in production as long, or don't meet the income or acreage requirements. We want to encourage these farms to be able to produce and supply food to their local communities rather than face barriers to doing so.

Food insecurity is a big issue today, and we also have a declining farm population; we want to encourage as many young and beginning farmers as possible to have multiple ways of providing their products to the community. It's particularly an issue in Lane County, where my farm is located, because land prices are so high.

The amendment forthcoming with input by Friends of Family Farmers addresses the concerns that I have, and I would be in support of the bill with the amendment.

Best,
Jenny Jonak