



February 11, 2026

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 Marna Hauk and I am a small farmer in the Hood River Valley along with David Copeland. We are writing to you today to express our 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.

David and I are writing as small farmers in the Hood River Valley. We care about this because we would operate 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. Why should a small farm be any less legitimate than a large farm when it comes to defining farm use? We have recently purchased a two-acre farm and have started planting and planning. We are becoming a small producer of fruit and hope to offer a fruit and herb community-supported agriculture in the valley here, along with a seasonal farmstand for the fresh food and herbs. We purchased the farm after careful consultation with the Hood River government confirming we would be able to offer a seasonal farm stand.

We oppose HB 4153 and the -2 amendment and demand a more inclusive solution. This legislation would impede us from having a small, home-grown farm stand. Why is the legislature putting up barriers for small farms in Oregon, including us? This legislation is not well-designed and does the opposite of protecting our livelihood. It is hard enough to do sustainable farming and gardening right now, and is made worse through HB 4153. Small farms are a vital part of the family culture here in the Valley. We are able to work together to create a mosaic of fresh food grown locally. Our farm operations and opening up our small farms to community connections builds a whole food system. It builds the local economy and creates points of farm to fork vitality.

I also have been appointed to serve on the board as Lecturer for the Rockford Grange here in Hood River. We are aiming to continue to build an agricultural revival in the Hood River Valley. This proposed legislation blocks our efforts and puts up barriers for the flourishing of small

farms and mutual support and sustenance. We have many members who would be negatively impacted by this legislation. Why should large acreage farmers gain privileges at the expense of smaller acre farmers? Farm stands allow us to build multigenerational knowledge, healthy diversity, and food cultures for local resilience. Abundant local small farm farmstands reduce climate impacts of food transport while increasing access to affordable, fresh food.

Dave and I are not opposed to gentle agritourism as long as it does not threaten farmland or impede actual small farmers being able to flourish and continue to forge vital connections with other community members. We need as many ways as possible to encourage connections between those living in towns and beautiful, multi-scale, and especially small scale, farm flourishing.

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,
Marna Hauk and David Copeland
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