

Submitter: Britt McIntosh

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

The passing of HB 4153 as is, stands as incomplete and detrimental to the livelihoods of many low and middle income families in our small rural community. Farm Stands in our coastal corridor has become a thread that ties us together and part of our identity. We have worked hard on the grassroots level to create access, economy and well-being through its offerings. Neighbors, small businesses and tourists all participating to support a true, local, small-scale food system. Visitors and community members alike can participate in our North Coast Food Trail - bridging agricultural and culinary offerings together for a rich and diverse North Coast experience.

Farm Stands and the small local families running them have helped Tillamook County create a unique identity and network of connection.

HB 4153 would sever the connection that this meaningful grassroots movement has created here.

HB 4153 is incomplete and would be responsible and complacent in withdrawing the livelihood of small farm businesses by allowing this to proceed as it stands.

The exact farms that have paved the path and created this industry would be the first ones facing deep repercussions of actions by a governing body not taking into full account of who this bill would impact most.

The connection of these small farm stands that exist in my community have brought health, nutrition, connection, education, support and joy. If these are pushed out for big industry opportunists, my rural inlet would feel a devastating loss in so many ways.