



THE OREGON FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 4153

The Oregon Farm Bureau Federation (OFB) is the state's largest general agriculture organization, representing nearly 6,500 family farms across all 36 counties and over 220 different agricultural commodities. As a nonpartisan grassroots organization with roots dating back to 1919, our mission is to grow positive solutions for all Oregon agriculture.

Each year, OFB endeavors to examine its policies in the context of current opportunities and challenges within Oregon's agricultural landscape. This formal policy development process is deliberate, methodical, transparent, and driven entirely by our members. A policy proposal or change may originate from a county or through an issue advisory committee. Regardless of origin, they are ultimately voted upon by delegates at OFB's annual convention in December. When a policy resolution receives support from a majority of convention delegates, it is adopted into the OFB Policy Book. This ensures that **every position OFB takes is a direct reflection of the needs of the people working the land.**

Over the past two years, the concept of farm stands and farm stores has been the subject of intense attention both in the legislature and through agency rulemaking. The parallel, member-driven discussion OFB sought to develop consistent policy on the topic and clearly landed in a position of support for HB 4153. **OFB supports HB 4153 because it strikes a balance between helping farmers stay profitable and protecting our state's agricultural lands.** While our mission is to support farm families, we also have a strict mandate to ensure that Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) land stays dedicated to farming.

Portions of OFB policies relevant to the consideration of HB 4153 are available for your reference on the reverse of this letter. **OFB appreciates your consideration of HB 4153 and respectfully requests your support.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan J. Krabill".

Ryan J. Krabill
Oregon Farm Bureau

From the Desk of Senator Fred Girod

Commercial Activities in EFU Zones (3.630)

- *Non-production based commercial activities, or promotional activities should be accessory and auxiliary to the farm use on the subject farm and not the primary use.*
- *We do not support limits on the amount of income a farmer can earn from promoting their business.*
- *We believe on-farm experiences encourage the public's support for agriculture. We support farmers engaging with the public on farm in order to promote agriculture as a valuable part of our communities.*
- *We believe that the county is best suited to evaluate compliance with existing law and determine the appropriate conditions for an agritourism activity.*

On-Farm Education (3.650)

- *We believe that educating the public on agriculture and accepted farm practices is an important tool to protect agriculture for now and into the future. Activities like farm education tours, and other activities intended to promote and explain agricultural practice should be allowed on farmland.*
- *We oppose any legislation or regulation that would make it more difficult for farmers to educate the public about agriculture*

Non-Farm Activities (3.670)

- *We recognize that many "non-farm uses" are essential to the success of Oregon's farm families including but not limited to farm stands, agritourism, on-farm processing facilities, dwellings provided in conjunction with farm use, and other commercial activities in conjunction with farm use.*
- *We recognize that the agricultural economy is changing and becoming increasingly difficult for farm families. Many farmers may need to utilize non-farm activities on their properties to help supplement their farm income.*
- *As long as farm use remains the primary use of exclusive farm use property, we do not oppose farmers using their properties for non-farm activities to earn additional income to support their farms and families.*
- *We support the state adopting conditions for siting and permitting short-term vacation rentals in exclusive farm use zones that ensure such rentals are economically ancillary to the existing farm and that the farm owner is the farm operator and a full-time resident of said county.*