

Submitter: Devon Wells

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens and members of the House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water, thank you for taking the time to read this letter of SUPPORT for HB 4153, allowing counties to approve Farm Stands on Ag land.

I am a 5th generation pear, apple, cherry, and peach farmer in Hood River County. We have been farming some of the same ground for 125 years in this county, and plan to do so for another 125 years. In order to do that, we need to be able to use our land to sell our farm products and attract others to come enjoy our natural environment. There is no hiding that agriculture has seen a massive down turn in revenue the past several years. Increasing expenses have far out-paced revenues and is creating a business environment that cannot be tolerated much longer. In addition, regulations on labor, farm use, product sales, and agricultural practices are increasing at an alarming rate, specifically in Oregon.

This bill does not open the flood gates of use. It still requires guardrails and has restrictions, and also allows farmers to make additional income by inviting all to come and see a farm and experience Oregon agriculture first hand.

Please approve this bill and move it forward so farmers like me, and so many across the State of Oregon, can use our land to grow premium agricultural products and host visitors wanting to learn about Oregon Agriculture.

Thank you for supporting Oregon Agriculture and farmers doing great things!