

Submitter: Ava Setzer

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed HB 4153 that establishes clear and thoughtful guidelines for agrotourism.

Since moving to Oregon in 2011 some of my very favorite memories have been spent on or engaging with local family farms during their events. From concerts to berry picking to farm dinners to holiday special events - the farms have become unique venues that enhance my experience. Additionally, having events that bring closer to a source of food have subtly educated me on the farming practice. My kids can tell you directly the seasonality of some of their favorite vegetables and why they shouldn't eat them during certain times of year when they are no in season. Ha! Can't argue with that I suppose.

Additionally, I have worked in the tourism industry for more than 25 years, and it has been wonderful to watch agrotourism grow into a thriving and valued part of our economy. Visitors are eager to connect with local agriculture, and family-owned farms have done an incredible job meeting that interest in creative and welcoming ways. While other avenues of tourism have faltered, this are has become a terrific niche serving the local community as well as attracting visitors. There is still optimism and growth here.

For this growth to continue sustainably, it is essential that the government institute clear rules and boundaries. Small, family-owned farms need regulatory clarity so they can confidently operate, plan for the future, and remain successful without fear of inconsistent interpretations or unintended barriers. Well-defined guidelines help protect farmers, visitors, and surrounding communities alike.

This bill represents an important step toward supporting both agricultural heritage and responsible tourism. I appreciate your leadership on this issue and encourage you to continue supporting policies that allow agrotourism to thrive while preserving the viability of family farms.

Thank you for your time and consideration.