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On Behalf Of: Topaz Farm
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

I value topaz farm and the experience they provide to the community for many reasons. The experience they provide helps usher in a wide variety of people to the agricultural industry and different sub businesses within. For instance, a visit to their small farm can be the first experience many have with livestock or even on a working farm and see where their produce is grown. Not only do they see where it is grown but the how and why it is done.

Their farm also lends opportunity to other small farms via their market and audience for them to partner with them and sell their produce. Without the opportunity larger wholesale operation would likely buy from mega farms that are perhaps outside of the state or even country.

Not every farm has them potential to have a market of variety of factors. However, Operations like Topaz help support the rest of the farming community and keep us connected. Allowing farmers to do what they do best and feed the country.

The reality of modern farming is unless you have a niche “cash cow” crop you will never make a living on a small farm. The economies of scale necessary to break even along with the investment in materials, machinery, fertilizer, fuel and labor have made the only viable farms the large corporations. Unless we want to see land lay fallow or mega corporations take over. Farmers have tended and bleed for the land they work. Let’s not make this generation the ones who lost the farm. Support farmers and their rights to economic innovation.