

Submitter: Maggie Schillereff  
On Behalf Of: TOPAZ FARM  
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

I strongly support HB 4153 for many reasons. Agritourism farms like Topaz Farm play a critical role in their communities by creating local jobs, providing hands-on educational opportunities for families and children, and serving as wholesome, welcoming gathering places.

These farms also support the broader agricultural ecosystem by purchasing produce, livestock, and goods from neighboring farms that are not open to the public, allowing those farms to remain viable. The ripple effect reaches thousands of families, employees, and small farm operators across Oregon.

HB 4153 is essential to protect family-run farms that are operating responsibly and trying to be community resources, not nuisances. Without clear protections, excessive regulation and government overreach threaten the survival of agritourism farms that help keep rural communities alive. Supporting this bill means supporting Oregon agriculture, local economies, and the future of family farms.