

Submitter: James Babson

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald and members of the
Committee,

I support Oregon's Land Use Planning System and am dismayed by the relentless attacks by the Oregon Property Owners Association on our State land use laws. This group is opposed to any and all land use regulations. Their current misguided effort, HB 4153, the "farm store bill," would erode protections for resource lands by allowing another highly incompatible use on our vanishing farm land.

Farm stands and agritourism are already allowed on lands zoned for farm use. HB 4153 would allow farm stores that can have 95% of the store space allocated to retail items that have no connection to the farm. Farm stores belong in town, near local restaurants, retail outlets, and public parking. Continued commercialization of the EFU zone increases farmland prices beyond what new farmers and leasers of farm land can afford.

Please oppose this bill, which is far too controversial to be considered in the short session.

Thank you for considering my comments.

James Babson
Lane County