

Submitter: Renee Brickman

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

I strongly support Bill 4153, which allows counties to approve farm stores as a nonfarm use on land zoned for farm use. I rely on local farm stores in my area not only to support family-run agricultural businesses, but to ensure access to fresh, locally grown food—something that is essential for the health and resilience of all communities. Farm stores and agritourism keep the public connected to where food comes from, foster awareness of farming as a livelihood, and help small businesses like mine remain viable. When people can engage directly with farms, it sustains local jobs, strengthens rural economies, and encourages future generations to stay involved in agriculture. Without these opportunities, we risk losing both our farms and the knowledge that sustains them. Keeping agriculture visible, accessible, and economically feasible is critical to preserving Oregon's farming heritage and food security.