

Submitter: Sarah Deumling
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Committee Chair and Members,

What happens to Oregon's farm and forest land and open spaces is enormously critical. It underlies our climate future, our economic prosperity, Oregon's livability and so much more. More commercial development on EFU land means more vehicle miles traveled. More of that same commercial development in our rural towns would mean revitalization and far fewer VMTs. More development on EFU land means ever increasing farmland prices, more McMansions, fewer farmers. Fewer farmers means fewer local businesses supporting that industry, the second largest contributor to Oregon's economy.

I am a 5th generation Oregon who grew up on a family farm in Clackamas County and, for the last 40 years have owned and managed a family forest in Polk County - along the Eola Hills in the middle of fine farmland to the west and encroaching sprawl to the east.

SB 4153, the Farmstore Bill, is just the most recent of so many attempts over the last 50 years to dilute and destroy the land use protections we have. It is also much too involved and complicated to even consider in this short session, going far beyond what we have ever considered acceptable in the way of non-farm uses on EFU land. I urge you, I beg you to take a careful look at this bill and do all you can to prevent it going anywhere in this legislative session. 5,000 to 10,000 sq. ft. stores with all the bells and whistles allowed in this bill belong in our rural towns where the infrastructure exists, where they would be welcomed with open arms and where they would be accessible to everyone and contribute to the sense of a lively community as those towns once were. In the longer legislative session we will have time to thoroughly consider the consequences, both pro and con, to this very important bill. We need all the definitions to be clear and to think and listen very carefully to all stakeholders about what kind of future we envision for Oregon. I am convinced that passing HB 4153 now would open an enormous can of worms going forward. Please save this one for the long session when we will have more time to give it proper consideration.

Thank you very much for your continued service to Oregon.

Sincerely,

Sarah Deumling