

Submitter: Ruby Perron

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Working on an agrotourism farm has been life changing for me. I was able to develop skills not only as a farmer, but also in customer service and working as part of a team. The owners and my coworkers are like family to me. They paid me enough so that I could make enough working full time in the summer to pay for college on my own and focus on school during the school year. I got to know regular customers and frequently talked to people from my own community in the city that were spending a day on the farm. Whether it was a concert, a kids birthday party, a farm to plate dinner, or pumpkin season, I repeatedly heard gratitude expressed for the experiences we were providing. The attention to detail and the care that the owners, my coworkers, and I put into making these experiences happen is unmatched. At a time when there is so much divisiveness in our country, and state, it is of utmost importance that people have a place to bridge the rural-urban divide. Both people from the city and the rural areas around our farm gather to enjoy each other's company, celebrate, and experience life together. Without the experiences we offer, such as concerts, farm to table dinners, and the farm market, we certainly would not be able to cater to, and bridge the gap between, people from such a wide audience.