

Christopher Foster
Multnomah County, OR.

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House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

Dear Chairs Helm, Owens and Vice Chair McDonald,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my view of H.B. 4153

I'm writing you today as a small farmer and former longtime member of the Multnomah County Planning Commission to oppose H.B 4153 or the "Farm Store" bill.

Last summer, I was disheartened to see a sound DLCD rulemaking process upended by an organized social media disinformation campaign midway through the process. Now, those few who were responsible offer a lop sided quick legislative remedy that proposes to excessively commercialize exclusive farm use zones. My many years on the Planning Commission tells me you that in the Multnomah County hot bed of the controversy, these legislative changes will not be well received by the farm community. Further, much of the broader public who bought off on the false claims about the rulemaking have yet to contemplate the outcome here. This legislation will have lasting negative consequences for the agricultural community.

The adverse effects of allowing extensive commercial activities not directly related to farming are not acknowledged in this legislation. This bill challenges the very precept of exclusive farm zones recognizing conflicts and a degradation farming's future as they mount..

The issues H.B. 4153 raises are complex, but there are reasonable solutions. That is exactly why the DLCD rulemaking process was the correct place for crafting them. A short session quick fix is not the way to resolve this. Please vote no.

With appreciation for your time and consideration,

Christopher Foster
Multnomah County, Or.