

Submitter: Erin Palacios

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

I am employed at Topaz Farm. This will be my 7th year working there. We get all kinds of people that come to visit the farm...from babies to the elderly. Everyone always seems very happy when they're at the farm. A lot of folks just come to be able to hang out and breathe maybe because they can't do that in the city. We have many schools that bring their children to the farm to learn about what happens on a farm, to learn about the animals, to learn about where produce comes from, to learn about the bees that make honey, to learn about the history of the 500 year old oak tree, and so on. There are so many things available to do such as berry picking, farm to plate dinners, live music, freshly made food, pumpkin patch, market to shop in, and the list goes on. Without all of these other activities, farms such as Topaz Farm would not be able to survive. How would our children be able to experience life on a farm or pick some berries or a pumpkin around Halloween? To be able to survive, small farms need to supplement their income with other means other than just growing crops. Please support HB 4153 to keep Topaz Farm and other small farms open.