

Submitter: Amber Schat-Kenig
On Behalf Of: Raised and Grazed Ranch
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

My Name is Amber and I am a new small FARMER/RANCHER, COMMUNITY MEMBER, and future FARM STAND OPERATOR in North Plains. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153. Farm stands are a vital part of connecting the public with our food system and building an understanding of what it takes to go from field to fork. I am leasing land in a rural area and having a road side stand is one of the only direct ways to get my product to the local market. But HB 4153 would restrict who is allowed to have a farm stand, replace current definitions with Farm Stores which requires investment and infrastructure that most small and beginning farmers don't have, and give large land owners privileges at the expense of small farm stands in Oregon. We need to find a better solution.

I care about this because I have plans in the works to operate or frequently go to a farm stand that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill. Small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms and it is a custom of rural areas to operate this way. Farm stands are often where folks in the community meet and catch up with one another so its served to keep us connected and knowing who produces our food and cares for the land and animals. Although I love to provide ag education and outreach, I do think the main function of farm should be what it produces or provides, not the attractions it hosts.

We are asking you to not have a higher burden on the smallest farms. This bill takes away opportunities from small land holders and farms in order for larger operations to be able to host more events. This is not a good bargain for Oregon and a better deal must be found.

Thank you,

Amber Schat-Kenig
Owner and Operator: Raised and Grazed Ranch