

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

Laughing Oaks Farm LLC in west Eugene, OR is very small family farm that sells meat and flowers. We oppose HB 4153 because it puts small farms that have or want to have a farm stand at a distinct disadvantage, especially when compared to the burden that this bill requires of larger farms. This bill does not help all farmers. In fact, for those wanting to offer a farm stand, it makes life much more difficult.

As currently written, this bill especially hurts small farmers because it increases the hurdles the farmer must overcome if they chose to try to increase their revenue streams by offering their products for sale at a farm stand. The consequence very likely will be that it, if left unchanged, HB 4153 will cause many small farmers to go out of business as they will not be able to meet the farm stand requirements in HB 4153. An important source of their farm revenue will likely disappear.

Farm stands are a vital way to connect the general public to their sources of food. They are vital because they increase the food security and resiliency of the entire community. Our laws should be encouraging farm stands and not discouraging them.

This bill needs to be re-written to ensure that its requirements apply equitably to all farms without regard to the number of acres that they farm. It also needs to be re-written so that farmers who chose to offer a farm stand are able to offer a farm stand of a type that suits their farm and the community they are serving rather than a legislated definition.

Bottom line is, there needs to be a much better solution. We oppose HB 4153 as currently written.

Suzanne Kacskos, farm owner