

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

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for **House Bill 4153, the Farm Store Bill**.

My family and I are frequent visitors to farms on Sauvie Island and throughout Oregon. Over the years, we've spent meaningful time with family and friends attending seasonal festivals, visiting market stands, participating in special events, and returning again and again across the seasons. These experiences are not incidental — they are how many Oregonians connect to local food, farming traditions, and one another.

HB 4153 matters because it recognizes the reality of modern farming. Small and medium family farms must diversify in order to remain viable, and community-based activities like farm stands, agritourism events, classes, and on-farm meals are an essential part of that sustainability.

This bill would:

- * Preserve agritourism activities such as hayrides, corn mazes, field trips, workshops, and seasonal harvest events
- * Clearly allow farm-prepared food and farm-to-table experiences
- * Remove restrictive income limits that make it difficult for farms to adapt and stay in business
- * Allow the use of tents and existing buildings to improve safety and accessibility for visitors

Importantly, HB 4153 supports both long-standing and newer farms, giving smaller operations the ability to serve their communities without facing costly and unclear land-use barriers.

From a community member's perspective, this bill is not about deregulation — it is about clarity, fairness, and preserving the deep relationship between Oregon's farms and the people they feed and welcome onto their land.

I am grateful to the bill's sponsors for their leadership and bipartisan collaboration, and I urge the committee to support HB 4153.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your service to Oregon.

Respectfully,
Dawn Geoppinger
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