



February 3, 2026

**To:** House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

**From:** Josh Tompkins, President & CEO, Washington County Chamber of Commerce

**Re:** Support for HB 4153 – Farm Store Modernization Act

Chair Helm, Chair Owens, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, which represents businesses across our region and supports a strong, resilient local economy, we respectfully submit testimony in **support of HB 4153**. This bill modernizes outdated land use regulations and provides practical tools to help Oregon farms remain economically viable while keeping agricultural land in active production.

Washington County is home to a diverse agricultural economy that includes both agribusiness and agritourism. Farm stores, seasonal events, and on-farm retail play an increasingly important role in helping small and mid-sized farms adapt to rising costs and market uncertainty, while strengthening connections between producers and consumers.

HB 4153 strikes an appropriate balance by removing unnecessary restrictions that limit farm income while maintaining strong safeguards to ensure farming remains the primary land use. The bill establishes clear standards tied to active agricultural production, limits the scale of farm store development, preserves local oversight authority, and protects surrounding agricultural operations.

From a business and workforce perspective, agritourism supports job creation, tourism spending, and rural economic vitality. For communities across Washington County and the state, this legislation helps preserve working farms while promoting long-term sustainability in Oregon's agricultural sector.

The Washington County Chamber of Commerce respectfully urges the committee to advance HB 4153.

Respectfully submitted,  
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