

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

I am Jim Kessinger. I farm 65 acres in Multnomah County where we have the farm Plumper Pumpkin Patch & Tree Farm, LLC. We grow pumpkins and associated produce, apples, Christmas trees, animals, and hay. We invite the public to enjoy our pumpkin patch and Christmas trees. School groups come to the farm to learn about growing crops, see animals, and get to take home a pumpkin. People come to the farm because they value the experience, because they want to buy our produce and trees and because they want to learn and their children to learn about farming

I support the Farm Bill HB 4153 because it allows me to continue farming and running a pumpkin patch. It allows me to make income to maintain and improve my farm operation.

The farm bill will require us to continue farming per the restrictions contained in the bill. The bill allows the county governments the ability to manage traffic, noise, and hours of operation. I support HB 4153 because it allows me to sell the farm to my son and gives him a path to be successful. By passing this bill counties will have the guidance they need to issue permits for new farm stores that will be consistent across the state.

Other benefits include: temporary structures such as tents will be explicitly allowed to shelter folks from the rain and the sun. Farm to table events will be allowed. Many of our seasonal employees are local high school students and their first job experience is a farm where they learn a diverse set of skills.

Removing the income restrictions allow farms to increase our revenue which is often used to buy farm equipment

This bill supports small farms that need a diverse income stream to survive. It's just not possible to make a living income with many crops on a small acreage. Relaxing the income restrictions while still requiring most of the land be used for farming allows the land to remain as farmland for generations to come.

Thank you and I urge that the HB 4153 be passed.