

Submitter: Mary F

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

TO: Chair and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

FROM: Mary

DATE: 2/3/26

RE: Support for HB 4153 – Protecting Oregon's Farm Experiences

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mary and I am a resident of Wilsonville. I am writing today to express my strong support for HB 4153. I am not a farmer, but I am a frequent customer of Oregon's farm stores, and I believe this bill is essential for preserving the rural experiences that my family and I value so deeply.

For me, visiting a local farm like Frog Pond Farm is about much more than just picking up a pumpkin. It is where people of all ages come to see where local produce is picked and provided for everyone both poor and rich. These farms teach us sustainability. It would be stupid to close down our local farms in Oregon. Would you rather the USA import basic food such as carrots and pumpkins from Canada? Or Mexico? Or China? Did you forget about tariffs? It cuts costs to have farms supported in the USA. They provide us with foods that bring nutritional value and they provide us with fun experiences. We the people don't have much of an independence left. Give what little independence we have to these farms.

However, I was frustrated to learn that current outdated laws actually make it harder—and sometimes illegal—for farmers to host these activities. It makes no sense to me that:

A farm store could be penalized just for letting kids use a hay bale slide.

A school Field Trip or pickling class is treated with legal suspicion.

A farm could be fined just for putting up a tent to keep us dry during a rainstorm or to provide shade in the heat.

I support HB 4153 because it brings common sense back to the farm zone. It ensures that the farms I love can stay in business by selling their products directly to us and providing the fun, educational experiences we enjoy.

This bill is the way to go to have consistent laws across the state and eliminate the current county by county variations.

I also appreciate that this bill includes strict guardrails. As a member of the public, I want to see our farmland protected, and HB 4153 does that by requiring active farming on the property and setting strict size limits on buildings. Farms are required to address parking issues, traffic issues, and noise considerations.

Farms shouldn't have to spend huge sums on lawyers to host a harvest festival or to visit with Santa. Please support HB 4153 so that families like mine can continue to

enjoy and support Oregon's working farms for years to come.

Sincerely,

Mary Fattor, Wilsonville, Oregon