

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

Dear Legislators,

I strongly support measure HB 4153 in support of approving farm stores as non-farm use on lands that are zoned for farm use. I have many heart felt reasons for supporting Topaz Farm and other farm stores in Oregon. First, my background is in public schools and childcare. Children learn the most through experience. A visit to the farm stays with them. When children get to pick berries, pumpkins, flowers, and see the goats, pigs, and chickens, they are more likely to value the food and where it comes from. Giving them a way to connect personally with their food is not only fun and educational, but it gives them a connection to the Earth and all its amazing insects, birds, and pollinators. Oregon desperately needs to raise young people who care about their food source and all that goes into sustaining fertile nontoxic farmland. Science supports the importance of quality food that is grown locally to support our immune system in fighting disease. The fresher the food, the higher the vitamin and mineral content and the better it tastes! Having a community for schools and families to go to where they can purchase healthy produce, learn about the land, how to sustain it, and celebrate the bounty that comes from it, is a connection humans have shared for hundreds of years. Please, please support HB 5143. Our children need ways to connect with farms if they are going to have a future. Thank you for considering the importance of this bill.