

Submitter: Eliza Mason

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water:

My Name is Eliza and I am a farm stand owner in Monroe. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153. Farm stands are a vital part of connecting the public with our food system and building an understanding of what it takes to go from field to fork. But HB 4153 would restrict who is allowed to have a farm stand, replace current definitions with Farm Stores, and give large land owners privileges at the expense of small farm stands in Oregon. We need to find a better solution.

I care about this because:

Small farms are vital and beloved in the community and their ability to do business and generate income must be protected. I own a small farm and farm stand in Monroe, and although I am exempt from EFU zoning, I support and collaborate with other small farms in the area. All of the income from my farm is generated at my farm stand. Small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms.

Why should a small farm be any less legitimate than a large farm when it comes to defining farm use?

We are asking to not have the highest burden on the smallest farms. This bill takes away opportunities from small land holders and farms in order for larger operations to be able to host more events. This is not a good bargain for Oregon and a better deal must be found. Please reduce the acreage and gross sales restrictions requirements for farm stands, to make them actually viable for our beloved small farms!

Thank you,

Eliza Mason, owner
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