

Submitter: Patsy McNulty

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Thank you for taking the responsibility to read this testimony.

My husband and I have lived in the Hood River area 30 years, moving from CA during a recession for work. We have been working class people. This will give a framework for this testimony.

Agriculture was not our means of livelihood, but that doesn't make us less concerned about this bill. Everyone should be concerned. Protecting farmland is vital to protect our ability to feed ourselves. This is not, primarily, an economic issue, it is a survival issue.

Farmland must be protected. It is the responsibility of us all. We must not let legislation rob us of that responsibility. Farming has become big business, and that is unfortunate. It is trying to compete with global markets, and that is unfortunate. A farmer historically only had the responsibility to grow enough food to care for his family and a small local community. Most folks were farmers. We have moved to being dependent on grocery stores for our food, and looking at farms as a business, but that doesn't mean we are less dependent on maintaining land that can be farmed. It is our most necessary resource, as necessary as food because at a moments notice it could become essential, not as a source of income, not as a fun place to visit, but as a place to grow food for our very survival.

So, please stop this bill and begin reconsidering how to care for the needs of this state in a more sustainable manner.

Thank you for listening.