

Submitter: Fran Finney

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

The state should not force counties to permit non-farm uses that do not fit their particular priorities and types of agriculture. Currently, for example, counties may – but are not required to – allow agri-tourism and other commercial events on Exclusive Farm Use land. Hood River County has chosen to allow up to 18 days of agri-tourism events, but not the larger number available in statute, and no commercial events. This is the county's right and choice under current law. It is the balance between tourism and farm land protection that fits Hood River. That local prerogative will be taken away by this bill. HB 4153 would force all counties to allow unlimited commercial activities and entertainment venues under the guise of a "farm store". Please do not do that to Hood River.