

Submitter: Sally Weymouth
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 Sally Weymouth and I am a COMMUNITY MEMBER in Bandon. 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:

- * I frequently go to a farm stand that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill.
- * Small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms.
- * Consumers should be able to buy fresh organic produce from local farmers they know and trust.
- * Why should large acreage farmers gain privileges at the expense of smaller acre farmers?
- * Why should a small farm be any less legitimate than a large farm when it comes to defining farm use?
- * Bandon is a small town with two grocery stores that rely on produce shipped from out of state and out of country.
- * Supporting small local farms keeps the money made local and helps our small community thrive.

I am asking you to not place a higher 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.

Thank you,
Sally Weymouth

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