

Submitter: Carmel Valencia

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

My Name is Carmel Valencia, and I am a Community Member in Coos Bay and a Grange Member, Phoenix Grange #779. 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 need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms. Why should large acreage farmers gain privileges at the expense of smaller acre farmers?

Small farms are essential to communities because they bolster local economies by creating jobs and keeping money circulating locally. They provide fresh, nutritious food, enhance food security by shortening supply chains, and foster community connection. Additionally, small farms protect biodiversity and use sustainable, eco-friendly land-management practices. They preserve rural landscapes, uphold agricultural traditions, and strengthen community resilience by fostering direct relationships between farmers and consumers.

Through Farm stands, Farmers' Markets and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs, they provide direct access to fresh, healthy options that might otherwise be unavailable in "food deserts".

We are 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,  
Carmel Valencia  
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