

Submitter: Charlie English

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 Charles English and I am a community member in Port Orford. 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 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 multiple farm stands that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill.

I rely on these farm stands to get healthy local food and I value them because they are members of my community and we share common values. Additionally I approve of their methods of farming and want to continue to support them.

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?

Not many people live in Curry county and it is hard to find local grass fed beef/eggs as well as local produce. Because Curry county has a small population most of our farms are also small and they create a network that feeds everybody.

These farm stands also promote tourism!

This bill takes away opportunities from small land holders and farms, which make up the majority where I live, 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,

Charles English

680 Deady St. Port Orford