

Submitter: Desiree Kaufman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or HB4153
Topic:

My Name is Desiree Kaufman and I am a community member in Bandon and work in Langlois. I am writing to you today to express my great 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 and greatly appreciate a few farm stands 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 do, they should be encouraged and supported to thrive. These farm stands in our area are valuable on so many levels to all ages of the community. They provide sustenance and a hands on experience that connects locals to the best quality foods and a sense of community that is vital to a healthy community. Why should large acreage farmers gain privileges at the expense of smaller acre farmers? I honestly would like to know why that is thought to be a good idea, because in fact it is not. Why should a small farm be any less legitimate than a large farm when it comes to defining farm use? I know the families that care for their farms, land, community and know their neighbors by name, They are true farmers who care. My family personally benefits greatly from their products and is grateful for them year round!

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,
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