

Submitter: Tracy Dihle

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

My Name is Tracy and I am a Yoga Teacher and Sound Facilitator 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.

As a person who tries to eat local and organic food as much as possible, 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. I have previously owned a very small gourmet food gift basket company. Because of the burdens placed on small businesses, we did not make it. But our food was not vital to the well being of our community. The food raised by our small local farms is so important to our personal and community health! Getting to know the farmers makes everyones' lives better. When they were flooded, many of us in the community lept to help. Their hard work planting, tending, and selling their produce means I can eat healthy food, which by the way also means fewer doctors visits.

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,

Tracy Dihle