

To: Chair and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Re: Support HB 4153

Feb. 3, 2026

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a resident of Portland, Oregon (Multnomah County). I am writing today to express my strong support for HB 4153. I am not currently a farmer, but I grew up on a farm in Minnesota. I know first hand how difficult it is to make a living as a farmer and keep farm land in the family. My family in Minnesota has figured out how to use previously cultivated acreage in Agro-tourism, rehabilitation, restoration and small scale crops. If not for accessing these alternative methods, we would have had to sell our family farm. We are proud to keep our land in the family and teach others about the value of farming practices and rural land. Farmers in Oregon should have access to these same opportunities.

Despite our family living in Portland, we access rural experiences, and homegrown products from outside of the city. We greatly value the offerings of our rural neighbors. This bill is essential for preserving the rural experiences that my family and I value so deeply. My husband and I hope someday to buy a farm here in Oregon and supporting HB 4153 is an important step for us to achieve our dream. Our vision of farming integrates practices supported by HB 4153. I encourage you to put your full support behind HB 4153.

I greatly value rural land and believe we all should. I want to see farmland protected and want all people to understand the value of farming and farms. It's important that all people understand where food comes from and learn to value rural practices. HB 4153 protects family farms, and farming by requiring active farming on the property and setting strict size limits on buildings. Farms are required to address parking issues, traffic issues, and noise considerations which protects the rural experience for all.

Farming is hard enough. Please ease the burden a bit for these fine folks and support HB 4153.

Sincerely,



Johanna Manalis
johanna.manalis@gmail.com
9242 SW 4th Ave, Portland, OR 97219

