

Submitter: Megan Weeks

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

My Name is Megan Weeks and I am a concerned EFU property owner as well as farm stand customer in Arago/Myrtle Point. 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 I own land that would be disqualified from use as a farm stand, if I chose to except use that right, as well as a farm stand customer who understands how much good, locally produced produce can be reaped for the health and wellness of our communities on very little acreage. This bill will effectively force many people to depend on food from far-flung places, jeopardizing the health and sustainability of our people as well as the environment.

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 ask you: Why should large acreage farmers gain privileges at the expense of smaller acre farmers?

Why should a small farm be any less legitimate than a large farm when it comes to defining farm use?

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,

Megan Weeks
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