

Submitter: Stephanie McKnight

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

My Name is Stephanie Mcknight 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 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 several farm stands in my community that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill. These farm stands are not only providing food for their local communities, they are vital components of our tourism economy. The farm stands in my community are part of Travel Oregon's Wild Rivers Coast Food Trail, a tourism campaign that highlights the incredible food resources in this rural area. These farm stands provide locals with affordable food and draw tourists from afar to spend time in these rural communities, which supports other businesses (hotels, restaurants, small businesses) that rely on tourism at the same time.

There are better solutions than HB 4153.