

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

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water:

My name is Micah Nilsson and I am a community member in Langlois. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153.

Farms stands are a vital part of the culture here in Langlois, and I consider myself so lucky to have five different stands within just a short drive of my home. It's one of the reasons I moved here 13 years ago, to be closer to the source of my food, to connect and form community with the people who grow it, and to support the local farmers who give so much to our area.

None of the farm stands I go to would meet the requirements set forth in section 2.3 of the bill, a bill which would privilege larger acre farms at the expense of smaller operations. I don't think larger operations would even be viable here, and so closing down the small stands that so many people here rely on would leave us without reliable sources of local healthy, delicious foods.

The danger that would create became apparent during the pandemic, when the supply chains failed and many foods became difficult to find at the regular grocery store. The small farm stands here stepped up their production, and new ones opened, and we always had enough fresh vegetables and fruits to eat, along with all the other deliciousness these hardworking people create.

As groceries again become more expensive and quality declines, I know that I can rely on my neighbors with farm stands to put good food on my table. And they know that they can rely on me to support them with my dollars, money that stays in our community and helps rural areas like ours maintain some independence and self-determination.

For these reasons and so many more, I oppose this proposal, and I hope you will do the same.

Thank you,
Micah Nilsson
Langlois, OR