

Submitter: Jim Prosser

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

My name is Jim Prosser, I farm 40 acres of grapevines and I am writing in opposition to this bill. Oregon has done a good job of protecting its farmland from sprawl. Every few years, one group or another takes a run at skirting these rules, so that they can put commercial development willy nilly on farmland. It's an end run that potentially kills the "golden goose" of Oregon's reputation as having a great functional urban/rural divide. I grow grapes, I make those grapes into wine and I take a few visitors to whom I sell a small minority of that production. From the road, you would hardly know I'm anything but a farm. My agricultural product alone, no one else, sells from this place.. A 5-10,000 sq. ft. retail establishment selling all manner of anything, plus entertainment, plus perhaps weddings is a different fish. Unless they are solely selling produce that they grew, by their hands, on their farm, the cars should keep on going to town, the place where stores selling merchandise are clustered and belong. Oregon's land use is not Houston, Texas, and we don't need a hopscotch of farm, retail, farm, retail, retail, commercial, farm, to take away the quality of our lives in this state. Nor drive up the cost of farmland, encroach on my farm, nor my neighbors.

Thank You,

Jim Prosser of J.K. Carriere, Newberg, Oregon