

Submitter: Cari Pickett

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

My Name is Cari Pickett and I am a small scale farmer and concerned community member on the southern Oregon coast in Allegany. 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 it seems to be government overreach at a new level that I highly disagree with.

I frequently go to a farm stand that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill, and have always wanted to have one of my own but could never meet those new obscene requirements.

Small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms.

Why should large acreage farmers gain privileges at the expense of smaller acre farmers? They shouldn't.

Why should a small farm be any less legitimate than a large farm when it comes to defining farm use? They also shouldn't.

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 and pushes the little guy out of the mix. This is not a good bargain for Oregon and a better deal must be found.

Thank you,

Cari Pickett
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