

Submitter: Sylvia Ernst

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

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 Sylvia Ernst and I am a COMMUNITY MEMBER and farm stand customer in Langlois, Oregon. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153. We do live in a very rural area and the family farms in our area are small. This bill would not allow them any more to have farmstands and offer us rural people here the opportunity to get fresh foods. Great quality fresh foods.

HB 4153 would not allow our small family farms their farm stands any more. Only large land owners. I am not even sure whether we have any of those here in the area. This is pretty wild. What could possibly be reasons for the size requirements in this bill?

When the farm stands are open here in the area I go weekly to get fresh fruit and veggies. It is not just me, many people from the area do the same and in summer this is a boon for the many tourists who visit our beautiful region.

Small farming is important in general to provide produce which large farms would not consider growing. In our area they are very important because there are no large farms in the first place who would have a farm stand.

What is the reason to rob small farms of their opportunity to sell their produce with a farm stand? It works really well, everything is fresh and very clean, often organically grown and we know the people behind it. This bill would remove all of that, how awful! Why choke all of this and strangle small farms?

And let me point out that there would be no more easy and safe way (yes safe, fresh and from truly meadow grazing mini herds) to get raw milk, something which is promoted by the United States secretary of health and human services RFK Jr.

And why only allow large farms to have farm stands and events? It just does not seem to make sense. Every business should have the right to do business. This is America.

Please don't put 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. There needs to be the same rights for all, small farms and large need to be treated equally. For farm stands and events.
There certainly can be better solutions. Thank you. - Sylvia Ernst