

Submitter: Luciana Valadez

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

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 Luciana Valadez and I am a FARMER/FARM STAND OPERATOR in Myrtle Creek. 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

Consider answering some of these questions or using these statements as a jumping off point in your testimony:

I operate or frequently go to a farm stand that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill.

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

Small farming is a important part of our family, not only are we able to offer farm fresh produce to our rural customers but we my kids are learning vital skills they wouldn't normally have the opportunity to learn from. The value small farms provide is invaluable, our customers grow a connection to the farm. They watch our kids grow up, and now our grandchildren.

Big farms get exponentially more help, even though small farmers need support more. Market distortion: Big farms can undercut prices, pushing small farmers out—not because they're inefficient, but because the system favors size. Rural harm: When small farms disappear, rural communities lose jobs, local ownership, and resilience.

When size becomes the gatekeeper, the law quietly says: "Only industrial-scale farming counts." That's not agriculture—it's a policy preference dressed up as a definition.

It helps us build community, to show our kids that hard work pays off.

It means that we would lose the income our farm stand provides year around. That income helps us purchase equipment, it helps us purchase seeds to continue to

provide for our community

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. This is not a good bargain for Oregon and a better deal must be found.

Thank you,

Luciana Valadez

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