

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

To: Oregon State Legislature
From: Sarah Kelly
Address: Grants Pass, Oregon
Date: February 3, 2026
Subject: Opposition to HB 4153

?To the Members of the Committee,

?My name is Sarah Kelly, and I am a resident of Grants Pass. I am writing to you today to express my strong opposition to HB 4153. In our corner of Southern Oregon, farm stands are not just a convenience; they are a vital part of how we feed our families and stay connected to the land. However, HB 4153 threatens the very small-scale operations that I rely on every single week.

?I care about this because I personally depend on small local farm stands for my fresh produce, honey, and eggs.

?In Grants Pass, many of the most essential stands are run by small-acreage farmers who would not meet the restrictive requirements laid out in Section 2.2 of this bill. These small operations provide high-quality, nutrient-dense food that is often more accessible and fresher than what I can find in a traditional grocery store.

?By replacing current definitions with "Farm Stores" and favoring large landholders, this bill effectively tells small farmers—and the citizens who support them—that their contributions aren't "legitimate" enough to deserve the same protections.

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Small farms deserve equal opportunity: A farmer should not be penalized or restricted simply because they operate on fewer acres.

?Food should come before "events"

I am deeply concerned that this bill shifts the focus toward agritourism and events rather than the actual sale of farm products. For me and my neighbors, a farm stand is about the food, not a party venue.

?The burden is misplaced: We should be making it easier for small-scale growers to get produce, eggs and honey into the hands of their community, not placing a higher regulatory burden on them to benefit larger operations.

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These small stands are the heart of our food system in Josephine County. They build an understanding of what it takes to go from field to fork, and they keep our local economy resilient.

Please do not place a higher burden on the smallest farms. This bill takes away opportunities from small landholders and families 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,

?Sarah Kelly
Grants Pass, Oregon