

Submitter: Leana Spencer

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 Leana Spencer and I am a Community member in Coos County, specifically Bandon. 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 having locally sourced produce is very important not only to my family, but also as a community as a whole. Though many of these small farms are seeing their produce being picked up by local big box stores, the ability to get the vegetables and good straight from the source is a great resource for our community. Not only nutritionally but all financially. These small farms are the life blood, the heart of our local financial systems. The revenue they generate is funneled right back into the local economy and also helps drive the eco tourism industry. Take away these small farms and their ability to hold farm stands and u-pick will impact the thriving economies not only locally but state wide!

I am 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,

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