

Submitter: John DeHaas

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 4153, known as the Farm Store Bill. This legislation raises significant concerns regarding its implications for farm operations and local communities.

First and foremost, HB 4153 limits who is allowed to operate a farm store, creating unnecessary barriers for small and beginning farmers. By basing opportunities solely on farm size rather than the sales of farm products, this bill disregards the economic realities many small farms face. This approach could severely restrict access to market opportunities for a variety of producers, ultimately harming our local food systems.

Furthermore, the bill fails to provide specific protections for the simplest form of farm stands currently in operation. Instead of safeguarding these important community assets, it seeks to replace them with more rigid farm store requirements. This shift changes the fundamental purpose and function of farm stands, which have traditionally served as vital points of direct connection between farmers and consumers.

The consequences of this bill could be detrimental to small farms, local economies, and consumer access to fresh, locally sourced products. We must advocate for solutions that support and uplift all producers, rather than creating inequities based on farm size.

I urge the committee to reconsider this legislation and to protect the rights and opportunities of small farmers and the communities they serve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
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