

Dear Legislature Members,

February 3, 2026

Why is the state of Oregon coming after small farmers again? In September of 2023 my daughter and I received a letter from the Water Master telling us that we had to stop selling produce grown with our well water immediately. We had been farming a small four acre parcel of land with a half acre of produce, five dairy goats and some chickens. We have a little honor system farm stand out on Lorane Highway and had been doing business there as Oak Song Farm for seven years prior to this notice. My daughter, who is a single mother, relied on this income to support her two children. Needless to say she had to figure out another way to provide income while we fought for rights to use our well water to grow produce intended for sale on our small farm. Due to our inability to sell our produce, business slowed down, we clearly do not have the \$40,000.00 in sales to qualify to keep our farm stand open.

My daughter has shifted her efforts into a farm preschool so she could provide a stable income for her family. This is unfortunate because we need farmers to grow the food we need here in our state. We are working on building up our farmstand business again and now you want to change to laws to benefit big agriculture and not the small family farmers. It is so discouraging! I am currently teaching and plan to retire in two more years. I was counting on being able to supplement my income and help provide local healthy food to my neighbors through our farm stand business.

The state of Oregon should be helping small farmers not impeding their efforts. The people in this state want to buy fresh, healthy, food locally. They want to shop at farmers markets and country farm stands and support local agriculture. Please don't let big agriculture win. Is that who is behind this new proposed legislation? Everybody should be able to farm and sell their food, not just large land owners. There is plenty of business for all of us.

For this reason, I am asking you to reconsider HB4153. It does not provide any opportunities for the small farmer.

Kind Regards,

June del Campo

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