

Submitter: Mila Martczyanov

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

TO: Representatives Helm & Owen & Members of the House Committee on  
Agriculture

My name is Mila, and I am a resident of Portland. I am writing today to express my strong support for HB 4153. I am not a farmer, but I am a frequent customer of Oregon's farm stores, and I believe this bill is essential for preserving the rural experiences that I value deeply. For me, visiting local farms like Plumper Farms, Topaz Farms or the Fruit Loop in the Gorge is about much more than just picking up a product. It is where I can relax, feel connected to my community, appreciate Oregon farmers, and even celebrate important events like birthdays or anniversaries. These farms provide education and seasonal traditions that connect us to Oregon's agricultural roots.

However, I was frustrated to learn that current outdated laws actually make it harder— and sometimes illegal— for farmers to host these activities.

I support HB 4153 because it would remove an obstacle for some of the farms I love to stay in business by selling their products directly to us and providing the fun, educational experiences we enjoy. We know that in these the expensive times, the ability to diversify streams of income can be the difference between staying open or having to close.

I also appreciate that this bill includes guardrails. Of course I want to see our farmland protected, and HB 4153 does that by requiring active farming on the property and setting strict size limits on buildings. Farms are required to address parking issues, traffic issues, and noise considerations.

Please support HB 4153. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Mila Martczyanov, Portland, Oregon