

In Support of House Bill 4153

I am writing to share my support for House Bill 4153 and for the many small farms that this bill will benefit, including my favorite, Topaz Farm on Sauvie Island. For the past few years, Topaz Farm has become a treasured place close to home for my family and friends to gather. We have attended harvest festivals in the fall, bird-watching events in the winter and amazing concerts in the summer. In fact, Topaz Farm has become such a favorite place of mine that last summer I got a part time job there to supplement my job as a public school teacher. By working at Topaz, I have seen first hand the hard work and love that the owners, Jim and Kat, have put into the farm and their commitment to provide the community with a truly magical farm experience. They are true stewards of the land they farm, and extend that care and love for the land with everyone that visits their farm. They provide learning opportunities for local school groups through field trips, and partner with non-profit groups like the Oregon Bird Alliance and Oregon and Department of Fish and Wildlife through their Hawks & Hot Chocolate winter bird-watching event. Small and medium sized farms like Topaz rely on multiple ways to stay in business and they are such crucial parts of our communities. I can't wait for my second season as part of the Topaz Farm staff and fully support House Bill 4153 and the many other local farms that the bill will benefit.

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