

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 Alan D. Rathsam, and I'm a native Oregonian, retired mechanical engineer, and firm supporter of locally-sourced farm products. I strongly oppose HB 4153 because it is designed to eliminate small-scale farm stands. These stands are not only a convenience to the public but also a diverse, widespread, food resource for the Rogue Valley in multiple disaster scenarios.

Who is harmed by small-scale farm stands? Do we have to follow the money, again? My neighbor has a small farm stand that provides our neighborhood with diverse, pesticide-free foods with superior nutrition to grocery store produce. Who benefits by denying my neighbor the freedom to sell the harvest of his labor? Of what relevance is acreage size or land utilization? Let the marketplace decide whether or not a small farm stand is a resource for its community.

Please serve Oregonians with a better approach to whatever HB 4153 is supposed to manage in the best interests of our State.

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