

Submitter: Sara Aipperspach

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

My Name is Sara Aipperspach and I am a community member in Bandon, OR. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153. Farm stands are a vital part of connecting the public with our food system and building an understanding of what it takes to go from field to fork. But HB 4153 would restrict who is allowed to have a farm stand, replace current definitions with Farm Stores, and give large land owners privileges at the expense of small farm stands in Oregon. We need to find a better solution.

I care about this because I frequently go to a farm stand that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill.

This farm provides organic vegetables to my family. I prefer vegetables grown locally. Buying local is better for our community economy to keep money local. The produce is noticeably better than getting produce that has been harvested too soon, stored in refrigerators and brought in from far away. No pesticides, no wax on my apples, better nutritinal value, and better tasting fruits and vegetables are some of the reasons I get my produce from the local farm.

Valley Flora Farm also gives away so much produce to local food banks. We absolutely need them in our community.

Taking away the ability to get my produce for this farm limits good nutritional food in my life. I am unable to grow many of the fruits and vegetables in my yard that I can get from the farm.

This bill takes away opportunities from small land holders and farms in order for larger operations to be able to host more events. This is not a good bargain for Oregon and a better deal must be found.

Taking away our major source of local produce seems to fit in line with an authoritarian, fascist government where our food sources are limited and only the very wealthy large farm landowners profit. This is not what I want for my community or my family.

Thank you,

Sara Aipperspach
Bandon, OR