

Submitter: Lacy Reif
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or HB4153
Topic:

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 Lacy Reif and I am a community member and hopefully a Future Farm Stand Operator in Bandon. 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 have had plans to operate a farm stand that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill. I am trying to get my growing established along with my chickens, so that I can share with my community, but have only lived in this location for a couple years and the land is in desperate need of rejuvenation for that dream to be achieved. This bill would kill that dream before that can even happen. Small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms. Neighbors need to be able to share their produce with each other without worrying if they have made enough profit. There is more to life than worrying about money!

We are asking you to not place a higher burden on the smallest farms. 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.

Thank you,

Lacy Reif
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