

Submitter: Corey Stewart

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

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 Corey Stewart and I am a CARPENTER/FARMER/COMMUNITY MEMBER/FARM STAND PATRON and COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE DEPENDENT FATHER of 3 children in Port Orford. I am writing to you today to express my strong 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 that we here in Southwest Oregon DEPEND on to literally survive. Food for my kids plates. Support the famers that put it there. Around the country we are regulating them out of existence. Please don't.

I care about this DEEPLY because my children, family, friends and entire community DEPEND on small farms for our health and way of life in rural Oregon. Small farming should be incentivized and supported MORE in our legislature, not regulated out of existence. The passage of this bill would be detrimental to members of our community on both sides as consumers and producers and is a lose lose situation. Please DO NOT PASS THIS BILL. 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. I demand more support for our small farmers in Oregon and this bill clearly does not support them.

Thank you,

Corey Stewart