

Submitter: Cecelia Bockenstedt
On Behalf Of: HB 4153
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

I would like to voice my support for anything that makes the lives of our Oregon farmers easier. It seems like it is a particularly tough job for anyone who is not farming on a huge scale, and I would like at least the paperwork and the permitting and the ability to make money not only from what is produced on the land but all of the wonderful add-ons, easier. Visiting a farm is a reminder of where our food comes from and it reminds us to be grateful for those who produce it, as well as for a bountiful earth. In the last year I have visited a lavender farm, eaten a catered Thanksgiving meal from a farm (with a mushroom dish that I will never forget), and picked blueberries on a farm. I love it that craftspeople, musicians, and artists can often share their gifts through a farm that acts as a community hub. I love it that kids get to see where food comes from. Finally, the land needs good stewards, and small farm owners are usually deeply committed to taking care of the land.

But mostly, I'd like the farmers to be protected from the variability in what their land can produce to be allowed to diversify their income stream and be allowed to keep a store on their land.

I hope you will vote to give these good people what they need to have more ease in their lives, to stay on the land, and to share that land with us non-farmers in as many ways as possible.

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