

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

My name is Amy Wilhite, and I am a community member in Bandon, Oregon. 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 support farm stands in Coos and Curry counties. I also support the farmers, farm workers, and their families so they can grow food on their small farms, hire workers from our small communities, and supply local, delicious food to feed our small communities on the south coast of Oregon. These small operations contribute so much to our community.

Why should large acreage farmers gain privileges at the expense of smaller acre farmers? I think this is unfair! Small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms. Why should a small farm be any less legitimate than a large farm when it comes to defining farm use?

I am 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,

Amy Wilhite

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