

Submitter: Amy Marino
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:

I am Amy Marino and I was born and raised in rural Oregon and I cannot believe how bad this proposed legislation is. It is like it was written to kill small farms. Was any research done on the number of small operations it would harm or end? I believe it would be a very large number. I personally know at least a half a dozen local businesses it would devastate. It seems like its sole purpose is to harm small businesses, small family farmers, farmers just starting out! It seems the only possible beneficiaries are larger operations... Large farm hosted events and the size of small agricultural operations and their ability to sell direct to consumers in their community, are two completely unrelated things. It seems like the event stipulations were added in to entice people to sign on or agree with the bill.

Furthermore this legislation goes against families and farmers trying to support their, and their communities, health and resiliency! In the face of oncoming climate change, trade instability and economic and food insecurity, this is exactly the type of legislation we do not need. Did the writers speak to any small farmers? Truly, I think they should be ashamed.

Also what's the matter with being small! Many farmers smartly realized that they HAVE to be small AND have DIVERSE, BUT LAND BASED, business operations, in order to survive and continue their dream of farming! That mindset and diversity should be supported! Not hindered! Especially not in the State of Oregon!

Let people grow food. Let people sell food.

Let people see what good stewardship of the land is. (And smaller operations almost always are better for the environment.) Let their communities come and reconnect to our food systems and the land. Support their good work. Do not hinder it!

Very sincerely, Amy Jo Marino