

Submitter: Christine Hanlon

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

My Name is Christine Hanlon and I am a community member 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 care about this because I have been a supporter and customer of Valley Flora Farm in Langlois, purchasing a weekly share of their amazing organic produce for 28 months of the year, for about the last 5 years. Their farm stand and u-pick strawberries are some of the best in the state, and provide truly excellent food options, even to those with limited budgets.

I also have frequented an honor system farm stand between Langlois and the city of Bandon, which is very well used and offers outstanding homemade pies, produce and flowers. These smaller scale stands would cease to be operable due to acreage requirements if this new bill were to become law.

Please modify this bill to take much more careful consideration for the smaller farmers in the state, who are providing much needed locally produced produce that enhances and benefits the surrounding communities. Small and smaller scale farming with farm stands that sell direct to the public from the farm, are a vital part of the communities which support them, as one of the many people who support these farmers and farm stands directly.

I am hopeful that you will reconsider the rules as they are currently written, and amend them to produce a more inclusive farm stand policy that benefits farms of all sizes and percentage of production.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Christine Hanlon