

Submitter: Pamela Berndt

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 Pamela Berndt and I am a Port Orford Community Member. 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 believe in the Triple Bottom Line - People/social equity, Planet/environmental stewardship, Profit/economic performance. The local businesses in my community follow this TBL and that is what makes our community thrive.

I frequently go to a farm stand that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill. Why should the size of a farm matter if it produces food for its local community and contributes to the well-being of a small town and other businesses? HB 4153 simply makes no sense.

Our community members support small farms with their hearts & souls. Many of us shop and rely on purchasing local produce/products at farm stands, our Co-op, subscribe to a weekly basket of produce via a CSA program and source local products in our restaurants - local farms are essential to our lifestyles and to where we live!

Small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms.

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,

Pamela Berndt

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