

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

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 Marisa Fink, and I am a community member in Roseburg, 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 replaces all current language around farmstands, implying that folks with an honor system stand at the end of their driveway supplied with garden overflow (zucchinis in August, a couple of pints of berries, or a sign saying "Eggs \$6") would be outlawed by this approach. Why are we giving more privileges to large landowners and telling small operations that they are not allowed to have a farmstand? Farm stands allow new, beginning, and small farmers to carve a niche for themselves without having to compete with larger farms in forums like wholesale markets, institutional sales, or even farmers' markets.

The farm stand is the simplest form of farm commerce. Farmers should always have the right to sell their own product from their farm property as an outright allowed use. The way this bill is written replaces farm stands in the law with these new laws about farm stores. We want to ensure that we are not outlawing the simplest form of farm commerce available. Someone with an honor system stand where they sell extra produce from their garden at the end of their driveway should not be subject to a permit and should not be prohibited.

When a farm only sells its own product, or has a u-pick, and operates its stand seasonally, no permit should be necessary.

I care about this because these small stands are what give character and delight to a weekend bicycle ride in the country. They bring a smile to your face when you drive by and see dozens of smiling sunflowers already picked and just begging you to take them home for a small honor payment. Your own garden may be supplying the nectar for your neighbor's bees, and why wouldn't you want to pay them for the honey they produce?

I oppose HB 4153 and demand a more inclusive solution. My family is asking you not place a higher burden on the smallest farms. This bill takes away opportunities from

small landholders and farms in order for larger operations to host more events. This is not a good bargain for Oregon, and a better deal must be found.

Thank you,
Marisa Fink
Roseburg, Oregon