

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

As Oregon continues to make laws that push out small businesses by making it unfeasable to survive with rising business license costs, rising taxes and forcing small businesses to contribute to paid leave, putting another burden on small farmstands will inevitably alter the rural community for the worst. I have lived in small rural communities in Oregon for my life, expanding the coast from Cannon Beach to Gold Beach, and farmstands, flower stands, egg/produce stands are one of the last remaining graces we can experience as grocery costs sky rocket and our sense of autonomy dwindles each year. As Oregon continues to impose unreasonable laws on our agriculture, small town families are the ones suffering as we do not have easy, available options of fresh, organic food. I am proud of the unique ways our rural community has tried to close this gap with running an online weekly delivery service running from Coos County through Curry County to provide nutritional options, and Valley Flora Farm is the local provider of produce in this program. For many folks it is still too expensive to have the delivery system, so being able to go to the farmstand in person is a lifesaver. I plead with our government to stop turning a blind eye to the rural, small town families trying desperately to feed our children real food as resources continue to be stripped away through imposed regulations that benefit no one and harm ourselves and the future generation. Hear our voice and turn your hearts to the good of the people.