

Submitter: Jim Gilbert

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Dear Chairs Helm and Owens and Committee Members, I have been farming and growing nursery stock in south Clackamas County for over 40 years. Agriculture is the second largest sector of Oregon's economy and its success is directly connected to the farmland protections put in place by Senate Bill 100 over 50 years ago.

Farm stands and the direct marketing of locally grown products have been a part of our unique land use planning program since its inception. Farmland is for farming and HB 4153 flies in the face of that by allowing "farm stores" selling large amounts of non-farm products and prepared foods and alcoholic beverages. We do not allow factories to be built in suburban neighborhoods and we should not allow stores, restaurants and bars in our EFU zones.

There are many problems with these kinds of non-farm uses. Allowing such commercial development will increase the price of farmland, making it much more difficult for beginning farmers, like, hopefully, my grandchildren, to take on this important work. It increases congestion on our rural roads and conflicts with soil cultivation, spraying and other farming practices. Stores, restaurants and bars belong in our cities and towns where infrastructure already exists and they can help the local economy.

HB 4153 is a complicated, confusing and controversial bill and simply should not be considered in the short legislative session. Please vote in opposition!

Thank you, Jim Gilbert.

Northwoods Nursery
Molalla