

Submitter: Brie Buerkle

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

I am a community member in Newberg. 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

Consider answering some of these questions or using these statements as a jumping off point in your testimony:

? I frequently go to farm stands that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill.

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

? Small farming is a critical piece of food security, biodiversity, and jobs in our community, as well as a place of learning for younger generations and a place of healing for some who've been impacted by the genocide of America's indigenous populations.

? Why should large acreage farmers gain privileges at the expense of smaller acre farmers? This grotesque transfer of privilege and wealth must stop immediately.

? Why should a small farm be any less legitimate than a large farm when it comes to defining farm use? This is a rhetorical question.

? If the primary purpose of a farm stand becomes agritourism events, not the sale of farm products, it will further reduce food security in my community and possibly create demand for other services for these out-of towners in my area, pushing locals out by driving up property values. We are asking you to not have 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.