

Submitter: M Crawford
On Behalf Of: Rural Peoples
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

4 February 2026

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 M Crawford and I am a concerned citizen of these United States in the beautiful city of Bandon, OR. 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. It is totally beyond reason to allow such a bill to pass into law. We need to find a better solution.

I care about this because of several reasons or concerns. I, along with neighbors and friends, frequently go to a farm stand 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. I do not have the area required to grow my own fresh, organic produce, so small farms are important to supply such items to a variety of people in, especially smaller, communities.

Why should large acreage farmers gain privileges at the expense of smaller acre farmers? Small farmers built America and should have the same equal rights to business as large scale and corporate farms. Why should a small farm be any less legitimate than a large farm when it comes to defining farm use? Farm to table is a big business trend for restaurants, and smaller farms provide for these businesses.

Farm stands provide a variety of fresh, locally grown produce for business as well as personal households. They offer this fresh produce as well as regional products for a variety of people, including tourist in our beautiful community.

We are 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. Please listen to the communities of Oregon and not just the big businesses.

I am requesting for you, our House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water to rethink this oppressive bill, HB 4153, and assure our great state of Oregon and local communities continue to serve ALL the people and to be a leader in what's right.

Sincerely and thank you,

M Crawford
Bandon, OR 97511