

Submitter: Laurie Balmuth

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

HB 4153 is not good for small farms -

This bill contains a provision that states that a parcel zoned EFU (exclusive farm use) for Farm and Forest use cannot have a farmstand unless:

The parcel is 80 acres or more and has at least 45 acres in production

The parcel is 40-79.99 acres and has at least 25 acres in production

The parcel is 20-39.99 acres and has at least 15 acres in production

Is less than 20 acres and either

Has at least 10 acres in production, or

Has cumulative gross sales of at least

\$40,000 (in the current text) or

\$10,000 (in the proposed amendments -1, and -2) from farm products in the last 2 years.

This would close existing farm stands who are following the law right now but are too small to meet these requirements. This bill replaces all current language around farmstands implying that folks with an honor system stand at the end of their driveway supplied with garden overflow (zucchini in August, a couple pints of berries, or a sign saying eggs \$6!) would be outlawed by this approach. Why are we giving more privileges to large land owners and telling small operations that they are not allowed to have a farmstand?

There is more to this proposed bill and you can read FOF's whole position here. We want to find solutions for farmers to diversify their income but this bill is a step backwards. Limiting who is allowed to participate in farm stands/stores because of their size is counter to the spirit of community food systems. Why are we penalizing small farmers for not being able to afford more land, being early on in their farm business journey, or telling folks that they aren't allowed to gather the community at their farm because they are small?

Oregon communities love their small, homegrown farmstands and we don't want to sacrifice them for the ability of a few larger land owners to host more events. A solution for Oregon's farm stands should uplift us all.

Testimony Instructions - DEADLINE 2/6/26 @ 1PM

We want to make sure that the members of this committee hear from small farms and community members who would lose access to beloved farm stands or be excluded by this bill.