

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

My Name is Barbara Samuel and I am a community member in Bandon. 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 I frequently go to a farm stand that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill. Small farms are the lifeblood of small communities, providing not only health food and farm practices, but knitting communities closer together. Standing in line to pick up my strawberries or onions, I talk to other people from my area, and trade happiness. Small farms have been the backbone of healthy communities for a thousand years. If we are only allowing large (often corporate) farms to exist, we erase the power of small business, farming families, and the joy of many people being able to work the land. 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.

Thank you,

Barbara Samuel
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