

Submitter: Kyle Chambers  
On Behalf Of: Hutch N Such Farm LLC  
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

HB 4153 eliminates EFU protections that make Oregon unique and open up our prime agricultural soils and friendly growing climate to commercial development.

HB 4153 is a poorly written bill that does not do enough to ensure that farmland is being used for its intended purpose. It has so many loopholes I honestly am surprised it has even been proposed in its current state. I would hate to see it pass and the state waste taxpayer resources stuck in litigations for years to come.

There's a lot of misleading testimony claiming that we are in jeopardy of losing agritourism experiences if HB 4153 does not pass. U-picks, events, farmstands, educational visits, hayrides, pumpkin patches, and farm-to-table dinners are all currently allowed on EFU land, albeit with some reasonable limitations to insure the farm is primarily used for growing crops. I think it is wise to reassess these limitations in the future to accommodate for small farm financial needs. Allocating certain rights to land owners based on acreage in production is not a fair system to ensure every small farm business has an equal chance of succeeding.

HB 4153 will result in farmland becoming even more unaffordable for young and beginning small farmers. It will result in less authentic agritourism experiences and makes local food even less accessible to communities in need.

HB 4153 will facilitate land transfer and ownership to a minority of wealthy individuals. A state composed of vibrant, unique small farms can not afford to make take this shortsighted risk at the expense of a few pumpkin patches, concert venues, and greenwashed retail centers.

HB4153 allows commercial development over prime agricultural soils that can't be undone. Once buildings, parking lots, septic systems, driveways are installed they cannot easily be removed and farmed again in the future.