

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

My Name is Betsy Harrison and I am a farmer in Langlois Oregon. Our farm is run by 3 generations of women and has instilled a lasting work ethic through out the generations of our family.

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. Small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms. We need to find a better solution.

I care about this because I operate a farm stand and know first hand how vital it is to the 'neighborhood'. Many families in our small community depend on us to grow reliably fresh and healthy food that, otherwise, they would have to travel a fair distance out of our area to find. The whole point for discerning shoppers is to be able to source local food from local farms. Not all farms are big! It is wrong to discriminate against small acreage farmers.

What difference does acreage make when growing food! It should be about quality, care and good management, not about size and money.

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,

Betsy Harrison

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