

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 Patrick Fay and I help operate a 6th generation small family farm in Junction City, OR. I am the cook at our little walk up eatery ("Farm To Face"; "All Oregon On Your Plate"). We are dependent upon agritourism for our survival. Via our farmstand, our pumpkin patch, our licensed mobile food unit, and yes, even our "incidentals". We are barely getting by.

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

- Small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms.
- No one works harder for all Oregonians at the grocery store checkout line than farmstand operators. The bigger grocers are all forced to compete with local harvests. Folks that never visit a farmstand benefit from this hard work.
- Why should large acreage farmers gain privileges at the expense of smaller acre farmers? Why have these weird, arbitrary, acreage and revenue metrics at all?
- Why should a small farm be any less legitimate than a large farm when it comes to defining farm use? This smacks of the Large Winery Statute vs. the Winery Statute. Where Large Wineries are the only farms in Oregon allowed to operate a full, brick and mortar restaurant by law. I hold the restrictions Farm Breweries, Cider Businesses, and Wineries hospitality face versus the privileges granted Large Wineries as economic oppression.
- Our farmstand, and our agritourism activities bring our community together. I'm witness to this every single day we are open to the public. The last thing we need is more red tape for Oregon small businesses.
- We are feeding Oregonians. Make it easier. Not harder.

We are asking you to not have 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,

Patrick Fay

Cook/Dishwasher/Farmhand and Value Added Production Director

Hentze Family Farm/Hentze Farm Hospitality Co.