

Testimony re: Oregon State House Bill 4153

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This bill limits farmstand activity to certain farm or forest related zoning with minimum acreage of 10 acres. This effectively eliminates those people trying to “start small” by identifying and producing food and value-added products on more affordable, smaller acreage. The effect is to prop up protection for large corporations who can afford larger farms so they can continue to try to monopolize the food supply. We have two neighbors with small plots of land who offer fresh produce, eggs, honey, and baked goods. It is a wonderful addition to our local food options and we enjoy supporting them and their goal of adding a bit of income by doing something they love that benefits our community.

We have one acre of land – not much, relatively speaking – but enough to grow some specialty herbs and produce should we want to enhance our retirement income. Its not something we are pursuing right now but no Oregonian should be constrained by their ability or inability to have access to large plots of land to produce food and food products pursuant to local cottage industry regulations.

Oregon has always been a state that has supported entrepreneurs and its people love to support local small businesses and neighbors who are small farmers.

This bill is a thinly veiled attempt to reduce the options available to Oregonians to grow food and produce food related products on small land parcels in order to protect corporate interests and MUST NOT PASS.