

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

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 Emily Cooper and I am a vegetable farmer located outside Boring. 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.

As a small farm owner, I strongly believe that farms like mine should have the same opportunities to sell our produce as larger farms. In fact, it's even more important for small farms to be able to connect to their communities via farm stands, since selling direct to our customers is often the only avenue we have to sell our produce, and a farm stand is one of the most accessible ways for small farms to get started. It's also an easy way for our rural neighbors have access to locally produced foods.

I also strongly believe that farm stands need to remain rooted in the sale of products produced on that farm. Otherwise, they risk becoming nothing more than agriculture-themed entertainment.

I am 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,

Emily Cooper
Owner/Farmer, Full Cellar Farm LLC
Boring, OR