

Submitter: Ariel Siebe
On Behalf Of: Root Down Acres
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

As a local farmer and Farm Stand owner, who is constantly trying to navigate the burdensome policies around Farm Stands, this proposed change leaves a lot of questions unanswered and appears to have a strong bias towards large entities, so I oppose the proposed bill as it currently stands. Here are my thoughts and questions:

- 1) ACREAGE—Some of the most efficient farmers I know work on tiny acreage and have some of the best farm stands in the state. This bill seems to intentionally neglect this treasured segment of the farming and farm stand community.
- 2) REVENUE—Why should there be a minimum revenue? This creates an unneeded factor of exclusivity and a bias in support of the larger farms/farm stands.
- 3) How would currently active stands be affected if this bill were passed? Would they be grandfathered in or have to go through another rigorous approval process?
- 4) Although I am in full support of increasing certain flexibility for farmers in EFU land (such as farm to table dinners, tours and educational workshops), I believe these should be considered SEPARATELY from a farm stand/farm store bill. Agritourism can be wonderful when done right and with consideration to the land and local community. If you ever want to draft a bill that specifically focuses on these other agritourism activities, I would love to offer input.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ariel Siebe
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