

Submitter: Matthew Barmann

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

HB 4153 is unfair to small businesses. Restaurants, brew pubs and cafes in rural centers pay commercial prices for land, pay commercial property taxes, and do not have acres of land to convert from farm use to lawns for customers. Small rural business and commercial districts die when farm land becomes de facto commercial land. In Hood River County, almost all EFU zoned parcels have a view of some sort. With this bill, our farm land would metastasize into high-traffic commercial businesses with which those in the appropriate zones cannot compete. That kind of sprawl is the opposite of everything that Oregon's land use system was designed for.

This bill is tailor-made for one specific permit application currently under appeal in Hood River County. The legislative process should not be co-opted for the benefit of specific individuals.