

Submitter: Corrina Kramer

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

I am a community member in the small town of Gold Beach. 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 we grow our own organic food in our simple garden and prefer to purchase natural or organic foods from many sources. However; local farm sources are our preferred way of getting our fruits and vegetables. I go to a farm stand that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill. Small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms. Small local farms or other small businesses are places I prefer to shop if given the chance. Local families providing for their families with small businesses should be a mainstay in any and all medium to small towns or counties. They work hard and should get the same privileges and be as legitimate as a larger farm or small business. It is amazing to be able to go pick fresh fruit or vegetables or purchased just picked fresh items from a local small business. The quality of that product far surpasses larger farms and the smaller farms are more likely to, and with greater ease likely to, grow natural or organic produce or products.

I am asking you to not place 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