

Submitter: Gina Dodds Ferguson
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 Gina D and I am a community member who highly values the autonomy of small farms and this states ability to be self sufficient when it comes to farming. 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 deeply because I moved back from Southern California in pursuit of learning about permaculture and implementing those principles in this beautiful state. Oregons value of local economy is what brought me back to this state, and this law would severely impact one of the things I love most about living here. I frequently go to a farm stands 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. Some of the best produce around comes from small farms, and aren't be any less legitimate than a large farm when it comes to defining farm use. Small farms allow for more food security in the community while stimulating the local economy. We are 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,
Gina D
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