

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 Rachel Roberts and I am a community member who deeply loves supporting farm stands and small family farms in Coos and Curry County. They are the backbone of our communities and I want to see them thrive for generations to come.

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 am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153. Farm stands are a vital part of our lifestyle and community, as

well as a beautiful way to keep us connected to our roots and land. They are also key components in helping teach our younger generations where their food comes from and how to practice responsible land management and animal husbandry. We can not allow these valuable skills and learning opportunities to fade away.

I also care passionately about what my family and I eat, and buying from farm stands and small family farms ensures that my family is eating clean, healthy, locally grown and sourced food. It is very important to me that I can continue to support local farmers I trust. I believe small farms have every right to equal opportunities to sell their products and produce as larger scale farms. Why should size make a difference? Small farms impact our communities just as much, if not more, and seeing them forced to shut down due to size is unacceptable. 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,
Rachel Roberts

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