

Submitter: Ruth Josephson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or HB4153
Topic:

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 Ruth Josephson and I am a community member with a vested interest in this issue. 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 I frequently go to a farm stands that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill and I firmly believe that small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms. My family depends on these small farms for much of our produce and dairy needs. We like to know where the food comes from and what the practices are of the farm. Please consider the question of why large acreage farmers should gain privileges at the expense of smaller acre farmers. This has not been the American way for centuries. Why should a small farm be any less legitimate than a large farm when it comes to defining farm use? Small farm stands not only offer a community connection and convenience, but often offer better quality and pricing of food. As a community member who frequents farm stands and small farms, I implore you not to pass HB 4153.

I and my family 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,
Ruth Josephson
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