

Submitter: Jeffrey Weymouth

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 Jeffrey Weymouth and I am a COMMUNITY MEMBER in Bandon, Oregon. 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 table. 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. This legislation is completely unnecessary - what is to be gained?

Valley Flora Farm in nearby Langlois has long been a vital part of rural life here in the south coast through their u-pick fields and a widespread CSA program, as well as supplying numerous local restaurants with beautiful fresh local produce and flowers.

I frequent 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.

Fresh farmstand produce is woven into daily life here, bringing fresh, healthful nutritious food grown without pesticides or herbicides. Food from small farms actually tastes better than what is available from larger operations.

Food grown locally does not carry the large overhead of transportation. A trip to a farmstand is a pleasant outing, a family/ social event.

What is to be gained by this bill? Nothing positive that I can see - it would destroy the livelihood that our neighbors have built through hard work over the years.

Who is behind legislation that would limit and even destroy small family agricultural operations?

Why should large acreage farmers gain privileges at the expense of smaller acre farmers?

Why should a small farm be any less legitimate than a large farm when it comes to defining farm use?

We are asking you to not place a higher burden on the smallest farms. This bill takes away opportunities from small land holders and farms for the benefit of others. This is not a good for small Oregon farmers nor those of us who live locally and support our beloved local farmstands.

Thank you,
Jeffrey R. Weymouth
215 13th Street SW
Bandon