

Submitter: Bradley Solomon

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

My Name is Bradley Solomon and I am a Father of 2, community member and small acreage owner in Eagle Creek, Clackamas County. 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 for a multitude of reasons. My wife and I are in the beginning stages of starting a small scale farm operation with the intention of selling at a roadside stand at the end of our driveway. We don't intend to make the farm stand our main source of family income, but we hope that it can bring in a little extra money to fund extracurriculars for our two boys and potentially save for their education.

We want our children to appreciate the hard work that comes with farming and have a deep understanding of where our food comes from. During the growing season we enjoy visiting different farm stands in our community to purchase fresh, locally grown produce and connect with the members of our community. This bill threatens to take away our right to choose local, community driven produce.

We are first generation land owners with a modest 5 acres. We were not fortunate enough to inherit large multigenerational farm land. We had to work hard, like most Oregonians to come by land that we could afford. The regressive nature of this bill gives preferential treatment to large landholders and corporate conglomerate "farms" to encourage mixed use of their farmland and aims to punish the owners of smaller acreage by making it illegal to sell their produce at their own property. At a time when the average Oregonian is feeling their budget squeezed tighter than ever this bill aims to take away their right to try to earn an extra buck and your right to choose.

We should be propping up and supporting the smaller farmers. And this bill sacrifices the many small farmers across Oregon for the benefit of the few. And for that reason I strongly oppose HB 4153.

Thank you,

Bradley Solomon