

Submitter: Inga Able

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Dear Representatives of The People,

HB 4153 would drastically affect several small farms in our area that sell to our local communities through small farm stands/stores, as they do not meet the minimum size requirements for permitting.

In southern coastal Oregon, farms are often much smaller in size than inland farms due to higher land prices, as well as niche production for relatively small communities.

Making it more difficult for these farms to direct sell to consumers through their ESTABLISHED stands and stores puts an unfair burden on an entire local food production system that is providing needed local foods to our small coastal communities.

I would also like to point out that we are currently entering a geopolitical time of uncertainty, potential unrest and possible, if not likely, future supply chain insecurity. On top of that, our regularly collapsing rural coastal road infrastructure, as well as potential major earthquake events threaten our local trucking food supply chain. The LAST thing that our rural communities want or need, is for our state lawmakers to hassle our local small farms that produce and direct sell right here in our communities.

Yes, their farms are small. But come to our rugged southern coast and try to find large flat tracks of land to farm. This isn't Medford or Eugene. Agricultural land quantity is limited in size by geography alone.

Our local farms, as small as they might seem to you, provide a VITAL service of locally produced, fresh and affordable foods to our remote communities.

Harming their ability to direct sell right here through the existing farm stand and small farm store infrastructure, directly harms ALL OF US.

So I urge you to consider that this bill does not treat all farms and communities in your state equally. Because coastal farms operate on different geographic and sales outlet parameters from inland farms. And we love them as much as we need them.

Sincerely,

Inga Able