

Submitter: Sarah Yeoman

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

I'm writing to urge the committee not to move HB 4153 forward this short session.

I live very close to farm land and work with farmers on a regular basis. Helping farms survive does not include incentivizing large landowners and letting businesses prioritize commercial and retail sales over farming. Farm stands are already a great way for farmers to directly sell products to their customers, and while the statute is not perfect, there is no reason to completely replace it with a bill that undermines the purpose of EFU land to be reserved for agriculture. The more effective way to help small, beginning, and family farms is to ensure land is affordable, incentivize local agriculture and tackle the imbalanced food systems that allow corporations to set food prices and import food internationally at the expense of farmers here.

Do not move this bill forward this session. The damage it could do will be so much harder to reverse later.