

Submitter: Maggie Burant

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 Maggie and I am a community member in Portland. 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.

We need to be supporting ACTUAL small farms! This bill would cause many to close their farm stands, which are a valuable aspect of both creating connections with community, and an income stream.

That this bill would let large farms (100 acres, not small!) run majority hay fields and an outdoor concert venue without any agritourism permit or impact testing, but disallow small farms (10 acres, actually small!) from supplementing their income via farm store and sometimes teach a class on their products.

This is NOT A GOOD BILL. There are some good aspects to it, but it does not help actual small farms, or new farmers! We cannot risk small farms being destroyed!

ALL FARMERS SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO SELL THEIR OWN PRODUCE ON THEIR LAND AS AN OUTRIGHT ALLOWED USE! No permit should be necessary!

By focusing on the size of the property, or the income, you are excluding small and new farms from generating income and connecting with community. This bill ONLY benefits large farms and that is just plain unfair.

If you actually care about Oregon agriculture you will REJECT THIS BILL and AMEND IT so that SMALL FARMS ARE PROTECTED!

We 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,

Maggie Burant  
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