

Submitter: Taylor Carpenter

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 Taylor Carpenter and I am a community member and hopefully a someday-farmstand-operator in Curry 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 because Communities like mine RELY on these small scale operators. We seek to support our local neighbors by purchasing their beautiful produce and products. We seek healthy, natural, home-grown nutrition from people we know, love, and TRUST. We plan weekends to take our family to the U-Pick fruit and produce farms. These farms not only provide delicious, healthy, local food but memories and fun for our children and grandchildren. We NEED these small scale farms and farmstands. Additionally, these farmstands provide the farmers/gardeners/moms/dads with supplemental income from products they have put blood, sweat, tears, and money into. And in this economy, any extra income is a blessing, often impacting the quality of life those families experience. I personally frequent farms that would not meet the requirements if HB 4153 passed. Myself and my community would be DEVASTATED if these farms were to close their operations. Our small farms MUST have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms, without exception. I pose this question: Why should a small farm be any less legitimate than a large farm when it comes to defining farm use? It shouldn't. They provide goods to community in the same way a large farm does. In my experience, my local small farms do it better because they are personable, present, and they know you personally. These small farms are often family-run, working their stands and operations themselves, not hiring outside help. We appreciate these family-owned and operated farms! Again, I cannot iterate enough how DEVASTATING and how NEGATIVELY impacted our small, rural community would be if HB 4153 passed. It would be the end of our local farming as we know it, closing the majority of our local farming-to-table operations. It would hurt me, my family, my friends, and my community. DO NOT LET THIS PASS!

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 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,  
Taylor Carpenter  
Curry County Community Member