

Submitter: Laurel Denton

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 Laurel Denton and I am a community member in Bandon. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153.

My local farm stands are a vital part of providing my family with high quality, healthy, locally grown food. Illogically and prejudicially, HB 4153 would restrict who is allowed to have a farm stand. It would replace current definitions with higher priced Farm Stores, and give large land owners privileges at the expense of small farm stands in Oregon. We need to find a fairer, less prejudicial solution.

I care about this because:

My community only has smaller farms and they need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms that are probably not even local.

Why should I have to get my food from a large "store" stocked with NON LOCAL products, that are probably grown many many miles away. WE WANT THE PRODUCE WE EAT TO BE LOCALLY GROWN and IS GUARANTEED TO BE A FRESHER, HEALTHIER PRODUCT THAN ANYTHING I CAN BUY FROM A LARGE "STORE". I KNOW WHO and HOW THEY GREW THIS PRODUCE. I CAN TALK TO THEM ABOUT THEIR AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES. MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE PRODUCE THEY SELL, COMES FROM THEIR FARM DIRECTLY TO ME, NO MIDDLEMAN - IT IS NOT HANDLED BY COUNTLESS UNKNOWN HANDS, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT SUPPORTS MY LOCAL ECONOMY.

Why should a large acreage farmer get privileges at the expense of my local smaller acre farmer? IT IS PREJUDICIAL.

Small farms are NO LESS legitimate than large farms. FREEDOM TO CHOOSE WHERE I BUY MY PRODUCE MATTERS. THE TRAFFIC SAFETY ISSUE IS A BOGUS ARGUMENT.

We are asking you to not place a higher burden on the smallest Oregon 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,

Laurel Denton

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