

Submitter: Chip Shepherd

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:

I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153. The Shepherd family and many of our Langlois neighbors rely on a variety of local small farms to feed ourselves. Valley Flora Farm, Hartnell Farm, Valentine Blueberries, Jensen Blueberries, are a few of these farms between Brandon and Port Orford that we depend on. These farms would be prohibited from having a farmstand and therefore jeopardize their viability. We have been eating food from Valley Flora for 27 years. Losing Valley Flora would be a crushing blow to the entire community. 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. That makes absolutely no sense whatsoever.

Thank you,

Chip Shepherd
47591 Leeward St.
Langlois, OR 97450