

February 4, 2026

Dear Sirs:

I am writing in direct opposition to HB 4153.

As a transplant from the farm country in western New Jersey (yes, The Garden State is filled with small farms and farm stands as well as larger farms), I was thrilled to find so many locally run farms with fresh produce, often times organically grown. To be able to access this kind of super fresh produce is invaluable.

I have found also that the relationships I have built with these local farmers, who are also members of my community, are relationships to be respected and cherished. Taking my family out to pick fresh blueberries or strawberries or apples is a great way for my young grandchildren to understand where our food comes from and how it is grown and for them to meet the farmers. Also, as a teacher taking students out to an actual working farm where the farmers are happily taking you through the fields and allowing sampling of different foods that the students might not otherwise try, is a very special event in itself. These small farms are committed to sustainable practices which I find critical in the agricultural arena today.

Maybe my letter should be more "point" orientated but I am passionate about having this option for food available to me and my family. Why should larger farms, sometime run by large companies/corporations, benefit when hard working locals can provide a service that is mutually beneficial? I really don't see why the two cannot coexist.

Respectively submitted.