

Submitter: Vicki Simpson
On Behalf Of: myself and all the small farmers
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Hello,

I worked formerly at the Jackson Soil and Conservation District where I learned about impediments in the law that had made it more difficult for local farmers to break even for all their hard work and inputs each year. Finally, farms were approved under specific conditions to run a farm store where neighbors and those in local counties could stop, buy vegetables and fruit and take advantage of the opportunity to buy many delicious food products made locally. But now, there seems to be pressure from some corners to put limits on small farmers who produce high quality food for local people who might otherwise have to drive long distances to get this fresh food or forgo access to such fresh produce altogether.

There have been attempts lately to limit water use and saddle small farms with regulations meant to ensure product safety in much larger complex operations.

I oppose HB4153 because it attempts to give benefits to large farm operations by allowing entertainment and other activities not associated with farming even or subject to environmental or good neighbor noise or traffic constraints, while limiting activities and charging fees and injecting wait times for small farm stand activities to which large farms are not subject.

I don't understand this attack on small farms wanting to have a stand to sell their produce. It seems like the big buys wanting to squeeze out the little guys and has nothing to do with producing good, healthy food for all from all sizes of farms and supporting each.