

Submitter:

Bessie Joyce

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 Bessie Joyce and I am a landowner in Coos County, where I was born and raised. I have a BS in Environmental Studies and have had a career in outreach education related to natural resources in Oregon. 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 I deeply value small, family-owned business and land ownership. I also value healthy, locally-grown food and farm products. These are vital to community vitality, watershed health, tourism and future generations. We can not allow big corporate landowners to elbow out the smaller, more sustainable farms or we will all lose in the long run.

I am 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,

Bessie Joyce

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