

Submitter: Cathleen Herbage
On Behalf Of: Small Farms
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

I live in Curry County We have several small farms that have farm stands and greatly increase the availability of fresh produce . Few if any of them have the acreage or income to continue their operations under this regulation. The purpose of the law was allegedly to increase access to food supply and assist small farms. This bill does not accomplish either of those objectives. Further, it is deceptive because it hurts small business under the guise of being an expansion. Some of the concepts are good, but it needs to go back to the drawing board and permit small stands without regard to acreage or income. A really small garden well managed can produce an abundance of healthy food. there isn't a good reason for restricting smaller farms from what they have done successfully for years. If the bill was not intended to have a punitive effect on smaller farms, it needs to be rewritten to distinguish between a "farm store" and a "farm stand" and protect the ability of small farms to sell direct to the consumer.