

Submitter: Tasha Baker

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 Tasha and I am a COMMUNITY MEMBER in Medford. 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:

- Small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms.
- Small farms are an important resource for connecting with our community and neighbors.
- Why should large acreage farmers gain privileges at the expense of smaller acre farmers?
- Why should a small farm be any less legitimate than a large farm when it comes to defining farm use?
- What do farm stands do for your farm business or community? They make fresh local farm products available to all income levels in our community. Making idiotic provisions against them hurts everyone not just the farmers.
- What does it mean for you, your farm and your community if the primary purpose of a farm stand becomes agritourism events, not the sale of farm products? I got to farmstands at least once a week to buy local farm products and support my neighbors. I use local honey every morning in my tea. Small independent beekeepers rely on small farms to make their product. Massed produced honey is unethical and disgusting, so without these small farms I would be forced to stop consuming honey. We are asking you to not have 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,

Tasha Baker

Medford, Oregon