

Submitter: Karen Sutherland

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 Karen Sutherland and I am a resident of Gold Beach, 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 believe it's critical for small farms to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms.

We have a small, rural community—there's no Whole Foods or other big city options for giving residents access to high quality, locally grown foods. The nearest "natural grocery" is over an hour away. We rely on small farmers and their distributors for good food choices, and they rely on an array of marketing approaches. Please don't curtail their ability to be profitable from the products they grow!

There's no valid reason that large acreage farmers should gain privileges at the expense of smaller farmers.

We are 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,

Karen Sutherland

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