

Submitter: Elizabeth Vila

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 Elizabeth Vila and I am a Community Member in Gold Beach. 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 frequently go to a farm stand that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill. My family lives in an area where access to fresh produce is very limited and this bill would completely and negatively impact I and my young children's access to healthy, fresh food.

I believe this is against what Oregon believes and stands for. I also believe small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms. Again, Oregon claims to promote equal opportunity and this would do the opposite. Please reconsider this and how it affects those of us in rural areas of the state.

Why should a small farm be any less legitimate than a large farm when it comes to defining farm use? This makes no sense. Farm stands bring a sense of community and health to small rural areas and boosts local economies. 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,
Elizabeth Vila
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