

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 Janice Crossland and I am a concerned community member in Coos Bay. I live on rural property and I patronize local farm stands.

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 in buying local produce and goods. I believe farm to table produce and goods are better for my health; they are fresher and therefore contain more nutrients. Buying locally produced products supports my community's economics. Buying locally produced products are not trucked miles and is therefore an ecologically sound practice.

Small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms. These are individuals and families that are trying to sustain a healthy agricultural lifestyle for themselves and are sharing the fruits of their labors with their communities.

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,

Janice Crossland

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