

Submitter: Pryor Garnett
On Behalf Of: Garnetts Red Prairie Farm
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 Pryor Garnett, and I'm a farmer in Sheridan. I write today in opposition to HB 4153. Farm stands and on-farm dinners and education effectively connect the public with farmers and ranchers and the work we do, and I hope someday to have a farm stand or store on my farm. But HB 4153 as currently presented will unnecessarily and unfairly restrict who is allowed to have a farm stand, and give large land owners yet another advantage over small operators in Oregon. HB 4153 makes the current farm stand situation worse, not better, for small operators, especially small, family-owned and -operated farms and ranches.

We need to make it more possible for small, family operations to thrive and to thereby raise successive generations of farmers. Permitting ancillary income from farm stands, farm to table dinners, educational events and sales of farm direct producer processed products helps family farms remain in operation. Denying those income opportunities results in further consolidation of the rural, farming communities into ever-larger, industrial-like operations. While well-intentioned, HB 4153 actually works against the small, family farm. The bill takes away opportunities from small land holders and farms, makes it easier for larger operations to host more events, and is fundamentally a bad bargain. Please reject HB4153.

Thank you,

Pryor Garnett
Garnetts Red Prairie Farm
Sheridan, Oregon