

Submitter: Sara Lovendahl

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 Sara Lovendahl and I am a community member and farm stand consumer in Port Orford. I am President of the Board of Directors for the Port Orford Community Food Co-op. Providing locally sourced produce and meats is a main component of our stated mission. Local farms and farm stands are integral in achieving our mission to serve our community.

I personally support local farm stands and farms.

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 because food insecurity and availability is especially critical in rural communities. Small farms and farm stands fill local needs.

Small farms should have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms.

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

I ask 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 for your service and the opportunity to express my concerns.

Sara Lovendahl

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