

Submitter: Justin Timm
On Behalf Of: Frog Pond Farm
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or HB4153
Topic:

My name is Justin Timm, and I'm writing in strong support of HB 4153.

I operate a small, family-run farm in Wilsonville where welcoming the community is a core part of what we do. Time and time again, we meet kids (and adults!) who have never set foot on a farm before. For many of them, it's their first time meeting a farm animal, hearing a tractor, or seeing where food and fiber actually come from. Those moments matter.

These experiences are a bridge between rural and urban realities that are often framed as divisive, but don't need to be.

HB 4153 helps protect and support this kind of agricultural access. When policies clearly allow farms to host educational, visitor-facing experiences, it becomes easier for us to offer safe, affordable experiences that serve entire communities. When the rules are unclear or overly restrictive, those experiences quietly disappear, not because they aren't valued, but because they become too risky or costly to offer.

Farms are more than production sites. They are places of belonging. They are where kids can be kids, where curiosity is encouraged, and where joy is the primary emotion.

HB 4153 recognizes that truth. It supports farms that are doing the work of education, connection, and community-building, often with very slim margins and a deep sense of responsibility to the next generation.

I urge you to support HB 4153 and help ensure that Oregon's farms can continue welcoming the public and offering joyful, meaningful learning experiences that simply can't be replicated indoors.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Justin Timm
Wilsonville, Oregon