

Submitter: Maggie Gardner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural  
Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

We need to modernize the ways in which we empower small family farms to continue to exist.

I agree that it is important to preserve the pure agricultural activities on farmland. But the current industry laws and practices are built for huge corporations and non-local entities that sever our human connection to the land, and protect unsustainable farming strategies.

I don't know of anyone who stopped farming because there wasn't enough farmland. But I have heard hundreds of stories of folks who had to leave because the land was too expensive and the industry regulations were stacked against them.

Farm Stores let farmers use their full resources, and provide important connection points for real humans. These very relationships become their own foundation for advocacy - people who have been to a farm and know an actual farmer will support the preservation of farmland and rail against development.

Again I say, we need to modernize the ways in which we empower small family farms to continue to exist.