

Submitter: Philip Higgins

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 4153, the Farm Store bill, which would allow Oregon farmers to sell value-added products made from their own farm production directly to consumers.

This bill protects actual farmers, not land use watchdog groups.

The current system has created a troubling dynamic: land use watchdog organizations profit from restricting what farmers can do with their own property, while bearing none of the financial risk that comes with actually operating a farm.

These groups fundraise on promises to "save farmland," yet their restrictions often prevent working farmers from earning a viable living from that very land.

The reality is stark: These watchdog groups don't own the land they regulate. They don't face the challenge of feeding a family through farming. They simply control how others can use their property—all profit and control, none of the risk.

HB 4153 addresses this imbalance by allowing farmers to:

- Process and sell value-added products from their own farm production
- Create additional income streams that keep farms economically viable
- Stay on their land and continue farming

Real farmland protection means keeping farmers farming. When farmers cannot earn a living, they are forced to sell—often for development. HB 4153 helps farmers stay on the land by enabling economic sustainability.

I urge you to support HB 4153 and stand with Oregon's working farmers.