

Submitter: Philip Higgins
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or HB4153
Topic:

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.