

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

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water:

I am a FARMER and FARM STAND OPERATOR in Talent. 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 about this because:

I operate or frequently go to farm stands that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill.

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

Small farming is important to me, because they are more accessible to town usually and support the local economy. My farm is 4+ acres that has 14 sheep, which provide local wool yarn and products. Also, a variety of veggies and flowers that are sustainable for everyone. My products are fresher, better and are a lower prices. They also have a lower carbon footprint on the environment. What is the value of small operations is vast, which is what makes this bill ludicrous. It takes a lot to maintain land, farm stands help with the cost of making rural areas more fire safe. The amount most people make goes directly back into maintenance on their roads, livestock and fire safety.

Large acreage farmers should not gain privileges at the expense of smaller farms. This is not only inexcusable, but completely unfair and not equitable. So, only wealthy land owners are allowed to do what they want? Small farm are no less legitimate than a large farm when it comes to defining farm use.

Farm stands boosts business and community and provide opportunities for town people to connect to where their food comes from. This helps people understand water responsibility and sustainable local food sources. If the primary purpose of a farm stand becomes agritourism events, not the sale of farm products, then that needs to be addressed on individual basis by local government and the community it is affecting. This would need to take in all the factors (drought being a big one). Most

all farm stands do not have issues, so punishing everyone for a Disney land operations is unjust and a waste of time.

We are asking you to not have 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 good for Oregon. Also, Oregon should be embracing small farm operations and agrobusiness. Control over local food and farm products should not happen.

Thank you,

Jodie Arellano

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