

Submitter: Markela Manesis

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

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

My Name is Markela Manesis and I am a community member in Ashland . 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 support small farmers, who are our neighbors, human beings who commit themselves to the hard work of producing high quality fresh, nutritious food for their communities. Many of us in the Rogue Valley regularly choose to purchase our produce from these farmers and oppose any legislation that puts their livelihood and our access to locally grown food at risk, such as HB4153.

You cannot in good conscience apply the same requirements for small farms as you do for large commercial growers. We trust our local farming neighbors and wish to continue to buy from them. This is how local economy survives and prospers.

Please oppose HB 4153 and stand with the community of human beings supporting human beings.

Markela Manesis