

Submitter: Chris Blum
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:

My Name is Christine Blum and I am a Farmer in Eugene, OR. 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:

Acreage requirement

I operate and regularly visit a farm stand that would not meet the acreage requirements outlined in Section 2.2 of the bill.

Equal opportunity

Small farms should have the same opportunities to sell their products as larger farms.

Why small farming matters

Small farming matters to me because it keeps food production personal, resilient, and rooted in the community, with a strong focus on land stewardship and sustainability.

Community value

Small farms keep dollars local, strengthen food security, preserve agricultural knowledge, and build trust between growers and consumers.

On large vs. small farms

Large acreage farms should not receive special privileges simply due to size; small and mid-sized farms provide critical economic, environmental, and community benefits.

Policy balance

Policies should support a diverse agricultural landscape, not favor consolidation at the expense of smaller farms and local food access.

Legitimacy of small farms

Farm use should be defined by agricultural activity, not acreage. Farms of all sizes contribute meaningfully to the food system.

Per-acre productivity

Small farms often achieve high per-acre productivity through diversification, local sales, and intensive land management.

Role of farm stands

Farm stands allow farms to sell directly to consumers, improving viability while strengthening community connections.

Community impact of farm stands

They provide access to fresh local food, keep money circulating locally, and create transparency and trust around food production.

Bottom line

Farm stands support small-scale agriculture by reinforcing that farming is about both food production and community.

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 a good bargain for Oregon and a better deal must be found.

Thank you,

Chris Blum
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