



#### OFFICERS

Roger Kaye  
President

Richard van Pelt  
Secretary

Susan Watkins  
Treasurer

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Laurel Hines  
Carla Mikkelson  
Linda Peterson  
Kasia Quillinan

February 2, 2026

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St., NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Please vote “NO” on HB 4153 - Allows counties to approve farm stores, instead of farm stands, as a nonfarm use on lands zoned for farm use.**

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

Friends of Marion County is an independent 501(c)(3) farmland protection organization founded in 1998. Our mission is to protect farm and forestland, parks, and open space in Marion County.

**Please oppose and remove HB 4153 from consideration by the 2026 Legislature.**

1)

**HB 4153** completely sidesteps the long-standing purpose of the exclusive farm use zone to preserve agricultural land for farming.

2)

**HB 4153** eliminates the “good neighbor” analysis currently required for agritourism permits to ensure events and nonfarm activities do not negatively impact other farms around them.

3)

**HB 4153** does not help farmers who actually want to farm, and was crafted by the Oregon Property Owners Association (formerly Oregonians in Action) who have been attempting to open up farm land to unfettered commercial development for many years.

4)

Commercial destinations of this kind require significant upfront capital costs that could turn EFU zones into a pay-to-play system that undermines farmers and prioritizes commercial development.

5)

**HB 4153** fails to address impacts on land affordability and farm viability, two primary issues for small and beginning farmers.

6)

**HB 4153** is complex and controversial should not move forward in the short session.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,  
Roger Kaye, Pres.  
FriendsOfMarionCounty@gmail.com