

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

My name is Shannon and I am a real estate broker & former flower farmer in Hillsboro. 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. Oregon farmers need YOU to find a better solution.

I care about this because small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their products as larger farms. Oregon's land use regulations and the high cost of land already make it very challenging to see farming as a viable career. Lawmakers and your committee should be encouraging creative business models that encourage small-scale farming with direct-to-consumer sales, regardless of revenue. This bill would make it nearly impossible for new or prospective farm operators to test the market. And this bill ignores the reality that there are some high value crops that do not require a large production acreage to provide meaningful income for a farmer's family.

I'm asking that you not place 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. I understand the spirit of the bills, but this is not the solution, and I urge you to find a better deal for Oregon farmers.

Thank you,

Shannon Rose  
Licensed Oregon Principal Broker & former flower farmer