

Submitter: Kristy Athens

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 Kristy Athens and I am a small business owner in Enterprise. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153. I know that the farm stand legislation needs to be updated, but I do not like the direction this bill is going, pushing large landowners forward and holding small landowners back.

I do not believe that farmers should need to run an amusement park in order to survive financially. I do not want concert venues all over my county, especially down quiet rural roads. I fully support small farm stands that feature local produce, and possibly a small amount of farm-branded merchandise. I do not think farmers should be able to open full-service grocery stores on EFU land; this defeats the purpose of Exclusive Farm Use.

If Oregon legislators want to support farmers, they should focus on providing low-interest loans for land and equipment, connecting them with business mentorship and resources, and increasing funds to efforts such as Farm to School to create a larger market for Oregon-grown food. Farmers want to farm! Not be entertainers.

Please clarify the existing farm stand rules; don't make up new ones during a short session.

Thank you,  
Kristy Athens