

Submitter: Lauren O'Donnell

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: Hello, My name is Lauren O'Donnell and I am a resident of Port Orford, OR with about an acre of land where I have a food forest and an organic garden. 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 frequently go to farm stands that would not meet the acreage requirements in Section 2.2 of the bill. Also, as I mentioned I am developing my land for food production and this bill will impose limits on my future potential to earn money. This bill lacks compassion for everyday people just trying to make an honest living. And I am sure I speak for many Americans today, when I say that I prefer to buy locally farmed produce in carefully tended soils free of chemicals and pesticides. Like so many other things in politics these days, this bill seems to favor large farmers and big industry over the individual. Please do what you know in your heart is the right thing; act with compassion and try not to be swayed by those who have the money and power to promote themselves and their interests in congress. We are asking you to 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. This is not a good bargain for Oregon and a better deal must be found.

Thank you,
Lauren O'Donnell
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