

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

Good Morning,

I am writing today to express my opposition to HB 4153.

I feel that 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 can foster a better solution.

Small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms. Many farm stands do not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill.

Many families and individuals across the state are able to supplement their fixed incomes by selling eggs and produce, even by using the honor system, at the end of their driveways.

Small farm stands build relationships and help unite neighbors and the community at large.

I have fond memories of routine visits with my mother to an elderly "egg lady." Her husband had passed away years earlier and she earned enough selling eggs to prevent the need for government-funded assistance. Our compassionate relationship, via these visits, was an essential part of my upbringing.

Why should a small farm be any less legitimate than a large farm when it comes to defining farm use?

Please don't place a higher burden on the smallest farms. Regardless of how larger farms may benefit, please realize that bill HB 4153 will block opportunities for the smallest farms that add so much reciprocal value to local communities.

Supporting small farms are the means by which our communities can care for "the least of these."

Thank you so much for considering the impact that this bill has on all of us in this beautiful state.

Cordially,
Cynthia Flake