

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

My Name is Prisilla Fisher and I am a COMMUNITY MEMBER in Hillsboro/Beaverton, OR. 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 behind the small farms are real people with a vital role in our food system. We are asking you to treat all farms equally, regardless of size or scale. This bill takes away opportunities from small landholders and farms and gives preferential treatment to larger operations so they can host more agritourism events (not necessarily feed more people). This is not good policy-making and it will have long-term negative effects for the agricultural economy, the viability of small farms, and the vitality and resiliency of local food systems in our state. I strongly oppose this bill and encourage you to do so as well.