

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Oregon Legislative Assembly

Testimony in Support of HB 4153

Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Katie Boshart Glaser. My husband and I are fifth generation farmers in the Lebanon area. Our family farm was homesteaded in the late 1800s, and like many farms across this state, we've worked hard to preserve not only our land, but our way of life. Farming is not just what we do — it's who we are. It's our legacy, our livelihood, and our contribution to Oregon's economy and food system.

I am here today in strong support of HB 4153 — not only for long-standing multi-generational farms like ours, but also for those who are just starting out.

Oregon farmers are facing increasing pressure from rising costs, labor shortages, regulation, and unpredictable markets. The reality is that many farms are operating on razor-thin margins. The ability to adapt is what separates a farm that can continue into the next generation from one that quietly disappears.

HB 4153 is important because it gives farms like ours more flexibility in selling what we grow. That flexibility matters. It means farmers can respond to consumer demand, create new revenue streams, and make better use of the products we already produce. It allows farms to not only survive, but potentially grow — and growth is what keeps rural communities alive.

This bill isn't about special treatment. It's about local decision-making and allowing each county to decide what works best for their communities. It's about giving Oregon agriculture a fair chance to compete and succeed. HB 4153 will provide more flexibility for all Oregon farmers and ranchers, regardless of commodity, size, or how long they've been operating. It supports local business, local food systems, and rural economic development — without growing government.

When farms fail, Oregon doesn't just lose food production — we lose open space, jobs, and the backbone of rural communities.

Oregon agriculture has always been built on hard work, independence, and innovation. HB 4153 supports those values, and I urge you to vote yes.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Katie Boshart Glaser
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