

Submitter: Jodi Keeling

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

My name is Jodi Keeling and I am a community member in Albany. 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 small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms. Keeping small farms in business is good for families, for our community, and for keeping prices down for consumers. Small farms getting swallowed up by huge corporations is a problem across the country. Why should a small farm be any less legitimate than a large farm when it comes to defining farm use?

Why should large acreage farmers gain privileges at the expense of smaller acre farmers? Large acreage farmers are better able to absorb expenses; small acreage farms should not be put at a disadvantage just because they are not rich enough.

We are asking you to not have 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,

Jodi Keeling
538 25th Ave SE
Albany, OR 97322