

Submitter: Brittany Moore

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

My name is Brittany Moore, and I am a community member in Port Orford. 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 frequent multiple farm stands that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill.

Because small farms have the right to the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms.

Because small farms tend to be more ecologically conscientious, such as Valley Flora Farm, in Langlois, where they use organic and traditional regenerative farming methods to keep their food nutritious and the environment clean and healthy.

Because our small community farms enable my young son to learn with his hands about food, farming, and ecosystems, which should be part of every child's life, not a rare privilege.

Why should large acreage farmers gain privileges at the expense of smaller acre farmers? That sounds actively anti-American, as it interferes with equal opportunity, prevents self-sustainability within communities, and will cause communities to be forced to spend more money and more time buying less sustainable, less nutritious food, resulting in a domino effect of negative consequences for individuals as well as their communities.

No governing body has the intrinsic right to tell Americans they cannot produce food for themselves and their communities, nor whether they have the right to farm their land for profit. This bill is innately misguided, unsustainable, and anti-American, and whomever presented it as a serious, legitimate bill in Salem doesn't understand ecology, or microeconomics, or else doesn't care about either, and should probably move back to their home state, or get a wider variety of life experience before attempting such an affront to common sense values like these that we as Oregonians proudly hold dear.

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,

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