

Submitter: Michelle Blake

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water:

My Name is Michelle Blake and I am a COMMUNITY MEMBER in Nehalem, Oregon and frequent small farms in Tillamook County. 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 frequently go to a farm stand that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill. Small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms. This is so important because it allows our community to get fresh food vs. several day old food that spoils within a day of purchasing from a big box grocery store. It really does feel like discrimination for wanting to put small farms out of business. Do you even understand that's how your food is grown? You may go to the grocery store because you do not have access to truly fresh food because you live in a concrete jungle, but those of us who live in rural communities love our small farms.. all farms!! Acreage should NEVER matter. Don't ruin the American dream of the small farmers in our community. 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. Please rethink this and do better. There are way bigger issues you should spending your time in.

Thank you,

Michelle Blake

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