

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

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 Patrick Franks, and I am a community member in North Bend. 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 landowners privileges at the expense of small farm stands in Oregon. We need to find a better solution.

I care about this because Farm stands play an essential role in strengthening both my local community and the broader farm economy. They create direct connections between growers and the people they feed, which builds trust, transparency, and a real understanding of where our food comes from. For small farms, a stand can be the difference between surviving and closing—it provides an affordable, accessible way to sell produce without needing large acreage or expensive infrastructure.

For the community, farm stands offer fresh, seasonal, locally grown food that supports public health and keeps dollars circulating close to home. They become gathering places, strengthen rural identity, and give residents a tangible link to the agricultural landscape around them. Many people, especially those who don't have the time or means to visit larger markets, depend on nearby small farm stands for regular access to local food.

In short, farm stands support small farm viability, increase community food access, and preserve the character and resilience of local agriculture.

We are asking you not to place a higher burden on the smallest farms. This bill takes away opportunities from small land holders and farms 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,
Patrick Franks
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