

Submitter: Tiffany Jacob

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

My Name is Tiffany Jacob and I am a Farmer in Tillamook. 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 my farm stand is one of the primary ways I connect directly with my community and sustain my small farming operation. As a farmer in Tillamook, I operate on a scale that reflects the realities of small agriculture on the North Coast. I either operate, or regularly see, farm stands like mine that would struggle to meet the acreage requirements outlined in Section 2.2 of the bill, even though they are legitimate, productive farms that contribute to our local food system.

Small farming is important to me because it keeps food production local, personal, and resilient. Small operations bring diversity to what is grown, strengthen food security, and allow neighbors to build real relationships with the people who grow their food. In communities like Tillamook, small farms are part of the fabric of daily life. They support local families, encourage stewardship of the land, and create opportunities for new and beginning farmers to get started.

Small farms should have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms. Acreage alone should not determine legitimacy. A five-acre farm that is actively producing food and serving its community is just as much a "farm use" as a hundred-acre operation. Granting additional privileges to large landowners while restricting smaller producers creates an uneven playing field and risks pushing out the very farms that bring character, accessibility, and innovation to local agriculture.

Farm stands are essential for my business. They allow me to sell what I grow directly to the people who live here, educate customers about how food is produced, and create a space where families can connect with agriculture in a real and meaningful way. For many small farms, a stand is not an accessory — it is the backbone of our ability to remain financially viable.

If the primary purpose of a farm stand shifts away from the sale of farm products and toward agritourism events, it changes the focus from supporting working farms to supporting event venues. That may benefit larger operations with more land and

infrastructure, but it puts small farms at a disadvantage and takes attention away from the core purpose of feeding our communities.

We are asking that the smallest farms not be held to a higher burden. HB 4153, as written, takes away opportunities from small landholders and working farms so that larger operations can host more events. That is not a fair trade for rural Oregon. Small farms deserve equal recognition, equal opportunity, and policies that help them remain part of the landscape and local economy.

Thank you,
Tiffany Jacob, Owner
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