

Submitter:

Cory Siebe

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

I have thought a bit more about this bill. I want to submit a bit more testimony to add to previous testimony I have submitted.

I do not oppose farm stores and appreciate increasing the offerings in farm stores. One thing this bill does not address is how crazy it is to try to open a Farmstand or a farm store. We've been trying to do it legally now for about a year and fighting with the county every step of the way. The application is a whole process for a conditional use permit, and nothing is standardized. There is no standardized simple application for this. It takes a professional to write a conditional use permit. I've had to pay the transportation department around \$7000, the planning department around \$2000, it has to be all engineered on a commercial level so my engineer has cost around five to \$6000. The county applies the same commercial code to Costco as it does to a farm stand. This is the real craziness surrounding farm stands and farm stores in my area. The cost and the totally ridiculous bureaucracy. Don't we want the local farmers to be feeding us?! Standardized, applications, standardized lower fees/costs, and standardized structural requirements that are reasonable is what this bill needs probably more than anything.

Cory Siebe Root Down Acres farm stand