

Submitter: Hunter Finch

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Oregon has pride in a long history of protecting rural areas, as well as small family farms, and encouraging small businesses and entrepreneurship. Oregon, with help from the federal government, has put in place programs to help rural areas, which are too often economically disadvantaged relative to our higher density metros with their more vigorous economies.

So how is it the State legislature now contemplates a bill that will devastate small, rural, family farms catering to their local communities? How is it the State legislature has decided to decimate these small businesses? And when was it they decided to abandon core values so many Oregonians treasure?

Who asked for this bill and who will it benefit? Surely not small businesses. Could it be they are catering with preference and intent to benefit larger businesses? Are they abandoning their values for money and power, as so many of their class in Washington DC do today?

I, like many in my rural community, have purchased produce every week from a small family farm throughout the year for over a decade. These farms grow to higher standards, and the quality and freshness of their produce far exceeds that found in the tired aisles of local supermarkets, particularly in winter months, and they do it for about the same price. If the political (so called) elites decide it's in their best interests to destroy these farms, I will eat far less produce, and next time I vote I will make sure candidates I consider are more closely aligned with my values and interests.

In 1900 40% of Americans lived and worked on family farms. Family farms built America. The decision on the part of State legislators to attack small farms, small businesses, families, hard work, entrepreneurship, and rural areas is simply anti-American. HB 4153 is antithetical to values Ronald Reagan espoused, and which so many today proudly, knowingly parrot, as if their cherished own.

HB 4153 should be consigned to the incinerator. And we as voters will have a better idea of who we are voting for next time around.

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