

Submitter: Elizabeth Roberts

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 Elizabeth Roberts. I live in Representative David Brock Smith's district in Bandon on Oregon's Southern Coast. I am writing to express my opposition to HB 4153 which he is currently sponsoring. As someone who represents our district, I am shocked that he doesn't see how farm stands are a vital part of our remote communities. Our small local farms connect us with our food system, where we are able to keep our dollars local and support our neighbors while strengthening community resiliency and food sovereignty. Our small local farms are not only beloved and supported by locals, they are also important economic drivers for our seasonal tourism industry. Several have been featured by the Oregon Coast Visitors Association and Travel Oregon on their Wild Rivers Coast Food Trail, promoting agrotourism and events along the South Coast. We see the value in promoting and celebrating what our local small farms have to offer to our communities and our state. 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. This would devastate our communities and is the type the government overreach Representative David Brock Smith often warns us about. A better solution needs to be found.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Roberts