

Submitter: Julianna Morasse - Corrected

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

When I envisioned my future in 2013, I pictured living in Oregon with my children, visiting u pick farms, participating in their activities and seasonal fun. I made that vision a reality. Moving from California, I took my family of four and relocated to Oregon precisely for these unique Oregon experiences.

When my son was diagnosed with a progressive disease and started using a wheelchair, I thought that would end our times at these farms. Despite this limitation we kept trying to have these experiences. Guess what? We found accessible farms! Farms like Hoffman Farms that provide an accessible train ride and Lee Farms who make sure their ground is accessible for a pair of wheels, really amazed us! Now I get to watch my children's lives enriched by this unique exposure and memories. While we didn't see this challenge coming, I definitely would never imagine the next hurdle would be Oregon's government itself. Trying to limit these enrichment experiences for our children and community alike.

I urge you to pause and reflect what makes Oregon so unique in our country, what draws people together into our community, and how can we not only sustain these gifts but to celebrate it and cultivate it further. I strongly believe that this bill will stop pushing established citizens away from our beautiful state. Let us focus on rebuilding what is broken in Oregon, instead of continuing to break the few things that we still cherish and celebrate. This bill restores that by empowering these small farming businesses.