

Submitter: Steve Moore
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Members of the Committee,

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 4153.

While the stated goal of supporting farm income is important, HB 4153 goes far beyond that purpose and weakens long-standing protections for Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) land. By allowing farm stores to derive the vast majority of their revenue from non-farm goods and activities, the bill effectively opens agricultural land to general commercial use with minimal connection to actual farming.

Oregon's land-use system has succeeded because it keeps farmland focused on agricultural production while allowing limited, clearly defined on-farm sales. HB 4153 shifts that balance, encouraging retail and hospitality operations that compete with nearby towns, increase traffic and infrastructure pressures in rural areas, and erode the intent of EFU zoning.

Additionally, the bill risks harming small and beginning farmers. By raising thresholds and redefining eligibility, HB 4153 could disqualify legitimate farm stands that currently serve their communities, while making farmland more attractive to non-farm commercial investors. This threatens land affordability and long-term access for working farmers.

Oregon should be strengthening, not diluting, farmland protections. Existing law already allows farmers to sell their products directly to consumers. HB 4153 instead prioritizes commercial expansion over agricultural preservation and sets a troubling precedent for the future of EFU lands.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote no on HB 4153.

Thank you for your consideration.