

Hello.

My name is Ruth Dixon. I own a small farm (5 acres) and sell produce and eggs directly to my local community members. I live in Gold Beach, Oregon. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153. Farm stands are a vital part of connecting the public with our food system and building an understanding of what it takes to go from field to fork. 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. We need to find a better solution.

Small farms and farmstands are vital to our local food chain in Oregon. My farm sales would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2. I also purchase food from small farm stands and support them. Just because we don't own large acreage doesn't mean we don't provide an important food source to our community.

A large number of the small farms in Oregon have been owned by families for many generations. My grandchildren are currently the 6th generation to live on our farm and even though they are young, they are learning about planting, growing and selling produce on the farm. This bill will put an end to small family farms and farmstands like mine.

We are asking you to not place a higher burden on the smallest farms. This bill takes away opportunities from small land holders and farms in order for larger operations to be able to host more events. This is not a good bargain for Oregon and a better deal must be found.

Thank you,

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