

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

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 Laura Perazzoli and I am a farmer and community member who frequents farm stands. 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.

I care about this because I think it is essential for all farms (especially small farms) to be able to sell their food off of their farms. Every summer I visit a farm stand that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill. Small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms. Small farms are critical to our community food networks and allow many people to buy locally grown food.

The primary purpose of a farm is to grow food, and the primary purpose of a farm stand ought to be to sell the food. The primary purpose of the farm stand ought not to be agroturism (which is a fine use for some farms), but selling food to feed our communities. Small farmers and rural communities in particular rely on farm stands.

I am asking you to not have 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,

Laura Perazzoli
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