

Submitter: Mary Bails

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Dear Representative Breese-Iverson, Senator Sollman, Smith DB, Representative Levy B, Rieke Smith, Senator Anderson, Representative Rick Lewis, Senator Fred Girod

I am writing to express some neutral/opposition for House Bill 4153. This bill ensures agricultural land stays productive. It allows farmers to diversify their income through agritourism. There are many things that I am in favor of and support in this bill. The families that attend U-picks across the state, agritourism days or educational days on the farms leave with lasting memories as well as have the opportunity to learn about where their food or products come from.

One of the most important ways we sustain our farm is through agritourism, u-pick days, farm stands and farm stores. Opening our doors to visitors allows people to experience the beauty of agriculture firsthand. They can walk in the field and feel the product right off the field and share the experience with their loved ones. This bill offers support for families and farming traditions in Oregon. It gives family farms like ours in Oregon a chance to grow and leave a lasting legacy that values meaningful connections between small farms and their communities. People want to know where their food and natural grown products come from and the small farms here in Oregon can help give them that opportunity and peace of mind. Farms like ours rely on flexibility to grow, adapt, and welcome visitors. It is very important that small farms also are able to have farm stands to help them get their start. Small farms are often not large enough right away to have full operating farm stores. We need to ensure that the differences are clearly called out so the small farmers with small farm stands are not penalized. Small farms can often be on small acreage. The small farm stands that are often self serve at the end of the driveway are how a small farmer gets their start. So it is important to consider and ensure the small farmer farm stand is supported along with the larger farms farm store along with the ability to enjoy the same access to agritourism opportunities. While we are happy for the opportunities for farm stores and feel it is very valuable we do not want to be removing the opportunities for farm stands for small scale farmers.

Thank you for helping all of us keep growing.

Sincerely,

Mary Bails

3 Strands Farm

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