

TO: Chair and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

FROM: Jessica Olson

DATE: 2/5/2026

RE: **Support for HB 4153** – Protecting Oregon’s Farm Experiences

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jessica, and I am a resident of Hillsboro in Washington county. I am writing today to express my **strong support for HB 4153**. I am an *employee* and a *frequent customer* of Oregon’s farm stores, and I believe this bill is essential for preserving the rural experiences that my family and I value so deeply.

For my family, visiting local farms is much more than just picking up a fresh bottle of milk or a pint of strawberries. It is where my children learn about food, animals, nature and the hard work it takes to provide the community with wholesome food and experiences. These farms provide important learning opportunities and seasonal traditions that connect us to Oregon’s agricultural roots.

However, I was frustrated to learn that current outdated laws make it harder—and sometimes illegal—for farmers to host these activities. It makes no sense to me that:

- A farm store could be penalized just for letting my kids use a hay bale slide.
- A school Field Trip or pickling class is treated with legal suspicion.
- A farm could be fined just for putting up a tent to keep us dry during a rainstorm (this is Oregon we are talking about) or to provide shade in the heat.

I **support HB 4153** because it brings common sense back to the farm zone. It ensures that the farms we love can stay in business by selling their products directly to us and providing the fun, educational experiences we enjoy. Farms shouldn’t have to spend huge sums on lawyers to host a harvest festival or to visit Santa. It should be a place that is welcoming to all neighbors for fun children birthday parties, field trips, classes, farm to table dinners and so much more.

**Please support HB 4153** so that families like mine can continue to enjoy and support Oregon’s working farms for years to come.

Sincerely,

Jessica – An employee of Plumper Farms