

Submitter: Jonathan Westmoreland

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Hello Chair and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing to comment on HB 4153 (introduced) regarding on-farm sales.

I support Oregon farms of every size, including very small “supplemental income” operations—neighbors selling surplus eggs, seasonal produce, jams, or fruit from a modest garden and a few animals. These micro-stands are an important part of rural livability and local food resilience.

As introduced, HB 4153 replaces existing “farm stand” language with a “farm store” framework and sets eligibility thresholds that many very small farms cannot meet. In particular, the <20-acre pathway appears to require either (a) at least 10 acres employed for farm use or (b) \$40,000 gross farm income in the prior two years. A hypothetical example: an 8-acre family property with a few nut or fruit trees, a large garden, a handful of chickens, and perhaps a single cow might produce more food than the household needs and sell small amounts to cover other necessities—but would not approach \$40,000 in gross farm income over two years. Under the introduced thresholds, that kind of micro-operation would not qualify for a permitted “farm store,” even though the sales are limited and plainly tied to on-site production.

I'm concerned this would unintentionally push many simple, low-impact farmstands out of compliance—especially on EFU land—while favoring larger operations. I respectfully ask you to amend HB 4153 to explicitly protect “simple farm stands.”

A workable fix would be to keep (or create) a separate “simple farm stand” category that:

- Has no minimum acreage and no high revenue threshold;
- Limits scale by footprint/structure (e.g., table or small shed; no large enclosed retail space);
- Requires that the stand primarily sell products produced on the host farm (with clear, reasonable allowances for minimally processed farm products like jams or eggs);
- Keeps traffic and nuisance impacts low by capping parking, hours, and signage.

This approach would preserve the smallest farmstands—the ones that help families make a modest supplemental income—while still allowing counties to regulate larger

“destination” uses through the farm store framework.

Thank you for your consideration and for supporting Oregon’s family farms, including the smallest ones.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Westmoreland