

Submitter: Helen Redfield

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Dear 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 Helen Redfield, I live in Corvallis, and I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153 as it currently is written.

Farm stands are a vital part of connecting community members with our food system, and help build an understanding of what it takes to go from field to fork. Unfortunately 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. I think we need to find a better solution.

I care about this because I frequently go to farm stands in my area that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill. Small farms are just as legitimate as large farms when it comes to defining farm use, and should have the same opportunities to sell their produce. I don't think that the primary purpose of a farm stand should be agri-tourism events.

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I'm asking you not to place a higher burden on the smallest farms. HB 4153 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 deal for Oregon and I'm sure you and your colleagues can find a better solution.

Thank you,
Helen Redfield
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