

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

We are Janelle and Christian, Chefs and Owners of Compass Craft Catering, and the resident Farm to Plate Chefs for Topaz Farm. We both started our careers on the Las Vegas strip, but made the decision to uproot ourselves in order to move back to Oregon (Janelle is a native Portlander) in order to develop a deeper connection to food and the land that produces it, something that you can never get in Vegas. Topaz has been a huge part of that for us.

As a black owned, female owned, self funded business that started in January 2020, our journey to where we are today has not been easy. Our partnership with Topaz Farm is the reason we were able to survive through covid. As our biggest client, they play a huge part in how much we are thriving now. We are on our 6th season now, we've all spent years pouring ourselves into this farm to plate program, and honestly it shows. We're so proud of what we have built together. The way we champion the beauty and bounty that Oregon has to offer is something to be proud of.

That's why we support this bill. Agritourism plays such a vital role in connecting people to where their food truly comes from. Limiting the ways in which these farms are able to ensure they are financially viable threatens their very existence, and therefore the success of so many businesses like ourselves that rely on them as well.

Thank you for listening, and for standing up to support Oregon's farmers

Janelle and Christian

Portland, Oregon