

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

As a resident of Hood River county, I oppose HB4153. I am lucky to purchase my produce directly from a local farm for a large portion of the year, benefitting from the bounty of the Hood River valley. I appreciate how difficult it is to be a farmer, particularly in a tourist area, and the immense amount of work that goes into supplying the populace with locally grown food. However, HB4153 does not support farmers to make a sustainable living while farming. Instead it heavily favors commercialization of farm land and forces counties to allow unlimited commercial activities and entertainment venues under the guise of a “farm store”.

As a rural residential landowner, I have a reasonable expectation that adjoining Exclusive Farm Use zoned land will be used for farming, not for retail stores, commercial kitchens, restaurants, concerts, amusement parks, zoos, and entertainment venues. Rural residential landowners and our farming neighbors should not be forced to deal with non-farm uses that belong in commercial and manufacturing zones. Farm stands acting as true farm stands as currently allowed should not be expected to compete with “farm stores” that act like retail and entertainment establishments.

Please oppose HB4153. Thank you.