

Submitter: Margaret Jane Harris

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

It is astounding to me that after all the drama we went through last summer that this travesty of a bill is what is brought forward to the short session. This bill is a pathetic attempt to eliminate the land use system. It is aggressively supported by property owners that hate the land use system that protects ag land, and want free rein to have large gatherings, constant events, and as little actual farming as possible. It actually HURTS small and beginning farmers. This is yet another attempt by the Oregon Property Owners Association (using Topaz Farm as its mouthpiece) to eliminate our precious land use system that protects farms and EFU land so that developers can swoop in and take land currently preserved for farming. This bill is a wolf wearing sheep's clothing. We can certainly work to make the system easier on farmers but this does not help. It helps a few loud families with lobbying money behind them who do not care about their farming neighbors.

This bill is not the solution. It sucks. Governor Kotek should not be supporting it and neither should you. Vote no on this bill. It's poorly written and does nothing to protect agriculture in our state. It just opens the floodgates to paving over farmland forever.