

Submitter: Cory Bradley
On Behalf Of: Sacred Earth Farms
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

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 Cory Bradley and I am a small value added farm producer with 2.5 acres and just under half an acre in production. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153. Farm stands are a vital part of connecting the public with our food system and building an understanding of what it takes to go from field to fork, I personally plan on installing a farm stand on my street this year in order to help supplement the income from the farm. But 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. We need to find a better solution and this bill cannot be passed. the livelihood of small farms and producers in Oregon depend on the denial of this bill.

I care about this because as a small producer I only bring in so much income from online sales and the farmers market and by having the farmstand on my street it allows my neighbors to purchase food directly from me rather than having to drive to the store which reduces environmental impact and supports the local economy.

The farm stand that i plan on installing this year would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill and this directly impacts the profits I can make as a small farm.

Small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms and this new bill would put unfair treatment toward large producers and eliminate so much opportunity for small producers. Im all for creating more opportunities for agritourism but we cannot eliminate the opportunity for small farms like myself to serve the local community with fresh regenerative produce.

Small farms are actually vitally important to local economies. small farms are the ones who purchase goods from the supply stores and feed stores and they directly contribute the the health and resilience of local economies. if small farms die then that's less money at the gas station, that's less money at the hardware store, that's less money in the local banks and its bad all around for small producers.

By passing this bill it actually makes the local economy extremely fragile and weak because there are a lot less larger producers than smaller producers and those larger producers

What does it mean for you, your farm and your community if the primary purpose of a farm stand becomes agritourism events, not the sale of farm products?

We are asking you to not have a higher burden on the smallest farms. This bill 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 bargain for Oregon and a better deal must be found.

Thank you,

Cory Bradley

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