

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

This bill appears to be well intended, but contains some unfortunate weaknesses. Relying on acreage to determine who can or can not have a farm stand to sell farm products is a mistake. I started farming in 1978 with 1/2 acre of rented land. Over 40 plus years the farm grew slowly until my wife and I owned 40 acres, and had an annual payroll of more than one million dollars. Selling our produce direct to the consumer was an important part of our marketing all the years that I farmed, but was particularly critical to success in the first 10 years. Anyone should be allowed to sell farm products they have produced, directly to consumers regardless of the scale of production. It's fine to prevent "farm Stores" from selling a lot of things they did not produce. However, size of farm or production should not be used to prevent smaller operations from selling farm produce directly to consumers. Thank you for taking my input.

Tom Denison retired farmer.