

Submitter: Keely Nudo

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

As a resident of Sauvie Island and as an educator in Scappoose, I can share a variety of reasons of why we need to support our small and medium farms through this bill. But, this is bigger than Sauvie Island and bigger than Columbia County - this is an important bill for our entire state!

If our small farms are not allowed to participate in agrotourism or allowed to run markets that support their neighboring farms as well as their own, then our children and families will lose safe places for recreation. They will lose opportunities to interact with nature in safe and meaningful ways. Our students will lose opportunities to learn about agriculture and farming from experts in the field. Consumers will lose opportunities to shop and support local while seeking organic, healthy food choices for their families.

This bill supports small and medium farms to responsibly use their land for the betterment of our communities. It allows for experiences that many families would never have the opportunity to engage in if all our small farms disappeared. Small, local farms promote safe and healthy experiences for families while also providing delicious foods. And, for many of these small farms, they are family run and are these people's life blood - oftentimes for many generations!

I have the privilege of volunteering at one of our farms on Sauvie Island in the summer - on the mornings I am there I get to see first hand the educational, experiential and meaningful experiences families are having. The farm is such a healthy place for people to unplug, gather and connect. We NEED our farms to be able to be fiscally successful - HB 4153 supports this! Please pass this bill for a healthier, happier and better Oregon!