

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

I am writing to formally oppose House Bill 4153.

While I understand the stated intent of modernizing farm stand and agritourism rules, HB 4153 risks producing serious unintended consequences that would harm small and beginning farms and weaken the core purpose of Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) zoning.

By replacing simple farm stand permissions with a more complex “farm store” framework—including acreage, income, and structural thresholds—the bill raises barriers for the smallest agricultural operations. Many family farms rely on modest roadside stands or seasonal sales and would be unable to meet the new requirements, effectively excluding them from direct-to-consumer markets.

At the same time, HB 4153 appears to favor larger, more capital-intensive operations by permitting expansive retail-style facilities and prepared food services on EFU land. This risks shifting farmland use away from agriculture and toward commercial retail and hospitality, undermining long-standing land-use protections designed to keep farmland affordable and productive.

Small farms do not need more regulatory complexity to survive. They need flexibility, simplicity, and policies that recognize scale differences rather than imposing one-size-fits-all standards. A bill that unintentionally consolidates opportunity in the hands of larger operators—while sidelining smaller growers—runs counter to Oregon’s agricultural values and land-use legacy.

I urge legislators to reject HB 4153 in its current form and instead pursue reforms that:

- Preserve low-barrier farm stand access for small farms
- Protect EFU land from commercial creep
- Respect local context and diversity of farm scale

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Brandon Saada