

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 Diana Gorman and I am a community member in Port Orford. 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. 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.

I care about this because

Many of my friends and neighbors operate farm stands. They sell extras from their gardens to help make ends meet. I was thinking of doing this myself. This provides fresh, often organic produce (even though we can't claim that because certification costs too much) right in our community without us having to drive long distances (the nearest grocery store with decent produce is 25 miles away), or it having to be trucked in.

Small farms provide a mix of plants needed to keep the soil and our environment healthy. Rather than a giant monoculture field. Ideally I'd like to see us head towards several small family owned farms rather than giant farms.

It sounds like Valley Flora would be exempt from this bill. They are a very big part of our community, growing wonderful organic produce and sharing it with those who are less fortunate as well as providing to the local markets. However I know of many wonderful farm stands that are much smaller that this will impact and am very upset about the idea.

Under these acreage requirements, someone who owns 7 acres would never be able to qualify to have a farm stand through having their land in production.

Someone with an honor system stand where they sell extra produce from their garden at the end of their driveway should not be subject to a permit and should not be prohibited.

We are asking you to not place 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,

Diana Gorman

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