

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

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 James Ferreira and I am a COMMUNITY MEMBER in Langlois. 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.

HB 4153 is not good for small farms - speak up to demand a better solution for Oregon's farm stands. This bill contains a provision that states that a parcel zoned EFU (exclusive farm use) for Farm and Forest use cannot have a farmstand unless:

- The parcel is 80 acres or more and has at least 45 acres in production
- The parcel is 40-79.99 acres and has at least 25 acres in production
- The parcel is 20-39.99 acres and has at least 15 acres in production
- Is less than 20 acres and either
- Has at least 10 acres in production, or
- Has cumulative gross sales of at least \$40,000 (in the current text) or \$10,000 (in the proposed amendments -1, and -2) from farm products in the last 2 years.

This would close existing farm stands who are following the law right now but are too small to meet these requirements. This bill replaces all current language around farmstands implying that folks with an honor system stand at the end of their driveway supplied with garden overflow (zucchinis in August, a couple pints of berries, or a sign saying eggs \$6!) would be outlawed by this approach. Why are we giving more privileges to large land owners and telling small operations that they are not allowed to have a farmstand?

Limiting who is allowed to participate in farm stands/stores because of their size is counter to the spirit of community food systems. Why are we penalizing small farmers for not being able to afford more land, being early on in their farm business journey, or telling folks that they aren't allowed to gather the community at their farm because they are small?

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,

James Ferreira

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