

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

My Name is Kari and I am a COMMUNITY MEMBER and SMALL LANDHOLDER. 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.....

I frequently go to a farm stand that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill.

Small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms.

Small farming is important to me because we live in an extremely rural area where organic produce is unavailable outside of our local farm stand. We have to drive an hour to the nearest grocery store and even then, the produce is sub-par to what we can get from our local farm stand. I also worry that this bill would interfere with the value of my land and what would be possible, or actually limited in the future in terms of small scale farming for my community.

Why should large acreage farmers gain privileges at the expense of smaller acre farmers?

Why should a small farm be any less legitimate than a large farm when it comes to defining farm use?

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,

Kari Hansen

Tygh Valley, OR