

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

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water,

I strongly oppose HB 4153, which opens up EFU lands for widespread commercial use with very few guardrails.

As mentioned in several testimony's in support that described great experiences on farmland, they've had those great experiences because a lot of these things are already allowed, there are just more common sense guardrails currently in place. Those common sense guardrails won't be there if this bill were allowed to pass.

As mentioned several times in previous testimony in opposition, this overreaching bill will drive out small farmers to corporate interests and make it almost impossible for anyone on lower/medium incomes to be able to buy and WORK EFU lands in Oregon. Why is the Governor and Legislature trying to push such a damaging bill during a short session? There are already several ways available for EFU owners to take advantage of non-farm uses on EFU lands that work better for counties and communities in place right now. Why blow that up and make it more of a free for all for people with money, that have city/industrial ideas of what a farm and rural lands should look like?

Please kill this bill, or make several amendments so it works/flows much better for communities and the rural landscapes that are so vital in Oregon.