

Submitter: Margie VincentRoberts
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 Margie Vincent-Roberts and I am a member of the Langlois, OR COMMUNITY. 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 WHEN I retired here I was blown away by the time and effort that SMALL farmers contribute to make REALLY good food. We are so blessed in this area by many small farms that do not meet these requirements. Small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms. 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? If I chose to make a little extra money by selling my produce I couldn't if this bill passes.

Small farmers don't have the time or energy to add 'fluff' to their offerings, so they don't need this bill either.

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,

Margie Vincent-Roberts

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