

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

My Name is James Ferranti and I COMMUNITY MEMBER and grow a large Garden in Port Orford, Oregon. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153. Small farms and farm stands represent the American dream as well as Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. 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 have sold, bought, traded and congregated in places and spaces that would be impacted or not exist because of this bill.

I operate or 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 farms are a backbone to both small and large communities. They act as a community hub that provide valuable interactions that should be supported. They also add resilience to our food supplies, health and options.

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?

They provide locally sourced food that Americans should freely have access to.

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 Ferranti

Port Orford, Oregon