

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

My Name is Meghan Obom and I am a Community Member and Flower Grower in Portland. 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 as a micro flower farmer, a front yard farm stand is a key part of my income from this avenue, and my plot is too small to meet the requirements outlined in this bill. Small farms and independent farmers need to have the same opportunities as larger farms to sell their produce and support their families and their communities. Large acreage farmers should not be able to gain privileges at the expense of smaller acreage farmers who also have a need for outlets to support their businesses.

We are asking you to not have 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,

Meghan Obom
4108 NE 112th Ave
Portland, OR 97220