

Submitter: Sandra Stevens

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural  
Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

My name is Sandra Stevens and I am a community member living in Coos County. I am writing to express my opposition to HB 4153. Farm stands are a vital part of our community, connecting the public with our food system and the farmers who grow the food we buy and giving community members the opportunity to access high quality, fresh, varied food.

I frequently go to two farm stands that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill. The small farms I patronize allow me to buy a variety of fresh, locally grown, delicious food that I couldn't get otherwise in this rural area with limited shopping options. 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. It could put these small local farmers out of business.

The small local farms afford the owners the opportunity to contribute to the community, follow the passion they have for gardening, educate community members about food systems and growing and eating healthful food, and employ and train future farmers. In addition, it allows these entrepreneurs to start small and grow and expand their business in a sustainable way that makes sense for their financial and practical needs.

We need to support small community farms and allow them to continue to contribute to the local economy and community. Please do not pass this bill.

Thank you

Sandra Stevens