

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

I am a Mixed Vegetable farmer in Boring OR. 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 I operate and frequently go to other farm stands in my area that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill. I don't understand why there can't be exceptions written into this bill which would allow small farms under 10 acres to continue to have at least an honorary farm stand system. Are we that threatening to the larger farm operations? Are there studies showing that small farm stands are putting larger farms out of business or in any financial crisis? Are small farms really the problem? As a small acreage farmer, we already have to contend with people's skewed views of how produce is grown and brought to market. To be a successful farm at any scale, we need to be able to diversify our income stream wherever possible. So limiting a main stream of relatively easy income will choke out small farms.

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. Please do not leave anything to interpretation. If you intend to protect small farms ability to continue operating their farm stands, then write it in the bill. Anything less will be an abomination.

Thank you,

Jessica Park
Green Heart Garden LLC