

Submitter: Claire Aguilar-Larson

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

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 Claire and I am a community member 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;

- *Small farms are vital for promoting sustainable agriculture, protecting biodiversity, and fostering local economic resilience by keeping money within the community.

- *Small farms enhance food security through diverse crop production, offer fresher, sustainable food options, and act as stewards of the land, preserving rural landscapes and strengthening community connections.

- *I frequently go to a farm stand that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill for specialized, local, and organic options.

- *Small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms.

- *Large acreage farmers should not gain privileges at the expense of smaller acre farmers.

- *Large farms often rely on corporate, top-down structures. They may increase production, but they typically do not circulate money within the local economy as effectively as mid-sized, independent farms, which tend to support other local small businesses.

- *A small farm be any less legitimate than a large farm when it comes to defining farm use. This proposal is a barrier to entry and would drive up land prices and make it nearly impossible for young or new farmers to enter the industry.

- *Farm stands provide farm businesses with direct-to-consumer sales, higher profit margins, and increased brand visibility while reducing food waste. For the community, they offer convenient access to fresh, local food, foster trust through direct interaction with farmers, and act as a community gathering space.

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,

Claire Aguilar-Larson
4131 SE Nehalem St. Portland, OR 97202