

Submitter: Penelope Suess  
On Behalf Of: Small and family farms  
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

As a consumer of produce from local farms, I OPPOSE HB 4153! If the bill passes, I fear that a variety of foods I enjoy year round would no longer be available. Some of the farms within easy driving distance from me would have to close their farmstands, which might even put them out of business. Small farmers who supply the Port Orford Food Co-op would then be fewer, and the shelves would have to be stocked largely from big growers and out-of-state agribusinesses. Families with a surplus of eggs, berries, vegetables, and more would lose valuable income because they are too small to operate under this bill.

We all value good health, and eating fresh, wholesome food is essential to that goal. When food comes to us processed and packaged from faraway, it is less healthy. I know I always choose to eat food grown locally -- it's just better. So I support small farmers. I see how they care for their lands and by extension for their customers.

I feel we would all be poorer if more and more farmland is given over to businesses that emphasize other purposes than growing food. I want to see small farmers successful, not driven off their lands by short-sighted regulation that favors size over quality.

PLEASE DO NOT PASS HB 4153.