Submitter: Sarah Kleeger

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or   HB4153
       Topic:

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 Sarah Kleeger and I am a farmer and eater in a rural area outside of Sweet Home, in rural East Linn County. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153.

Small farm stands are not only an important source of income for many small producers, they also provide crucial and significant access to locally grown, fresh agricultural products in rural areas like mine - where the nearest grocery store is 10 miles away or more. The minimum farm size requirements included in HB4153 would limit or eliminate this important component of community food systems statewide, harming both small farmers and the Oregonians who rely on small farm stands to help meet their nutritional needs.

The USDA defines rural food deserts as "low-income tracts with a significant number or share of residents more than 10 miles from a supermarket or large grocery store." (https://www.ers.usda.gov/amber-waves/2011/december/data-feature-mapping-food-deserts-in-the-u-s retrieved 2/6/26).

Rural areas like mine meet the low access threshold to be classified as food deserts. In fact, huge swaths of Oregon are considered Food Deserts based on 2019 data for Low Income and Low Access. (https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/go-to-the-atlas, viewed 2/6/26)

Small (including honor-based) farm stands are one of the ways that people in these communities - myself included - access healthy foods such as produce and eggs - and occasionally even frozen meat products.

Large agritourism needs to be regulated, but small farm stands do not!

Community food systems need to be encouraged, not further restricted!

Please join me in opposing HB4153.

Thank you,

Sarah Kleeger
Adaptive Seeds