

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

Greetings from Shore Lane Farm, one of Oregon's newest small businesses and aspiring family farm.

My family and I have just established Shore Lane Farm LLC on the banks of Fern Ridge Lake. Our property is less than five acres, and we raise Gotland sheep, garlic, and a wide variety of fruits. We have been planning to open a small farm stand to sell fruit, eggs and small value-added products. Our stand is never going to make major income, but we hope it will enrich our community and help support our farm.

The language of HB4153 concerns me, because it would prevent small farms like mine from operating stands like the one we would like to have. We believe communities are stronger when small land holders are able to offer food to their neighbors. The thresholds presented in the bill are too high for small farms to meet, and will eliminate many existing farm stands.

I think this bill is heading in the right direction regarding larger properties, but it needs revision for small holdings. Please do not pass this bill in its current form.

Thank you,
Sierra Hillmeyer
Shore Lane Farm, Eugene