

Submitter: Edmund Chaney
On Behalf Of: Self and family
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

My name is Edmund Chaney and I live near Bandon. My family have been Oregonians since 1909 when my father, George H. Chaney and his brother Henry F. Chaney came from Michigan to participate in the lumbering business. Henry was a principal in the Coos Bay Lumber Company and other enterprises. Among other activities, my father was a senator in the Oregon Legislature in the late 1930s.

I am writing to you today (something I almost never do) to express my opposition to HB 4153. I understand it will restrict who is allowed to have a farm stand, replace current definitions with Farm Stores, and give large landowners privileges at the expense of small farm stands in Oregon.

I do have the privilege of buying produce from farm stands such as, for example, Hartnell Haven, that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill. Other than buying produce, I have absolutely no connection with their operation, but I have noticed that the couple has been able to sustain the farm stand through two pregnancies, a feat of hard work! This is one example I know of where a farm stand is a benefit both to the owners and to the community and I'm sure there are many other examples.

I think it would be counter to Oregon values of family independence, and community resilience to put small farmers such as these out of business. Sustaining small businesses such as farm stands in these times is becoming more and more difficult and as a result, we stand in danger of losing skills, community resources and choices that we can make as citizens. There must be other ways to achieve the good that you are striving for without hurting the little farmer.

Sincerely,
Edmund Chaney