

Submitter: Toni 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 Toni Larson and I am starting a small farm in Clatsop county oregon. 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 need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms. Now, and in the not so distant future, small farms are critical for the wellbeing of our communities - both rural and urban. A farm stand will be critical for my small farms and community access. Please do not place 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.

This isn't just about the small farmer as a business. Communities must be able to find and purchase food and other items locally and where it is available.

Thank you,

Toni Larson
Astoria, Oregon