

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

Hello Legislators! My name is Arianna Trames and I am writing in support of HB 4153.

I've been coming to Sauvie Island for almost 30 years. I had my 14th birthday party at a pumpkin patch - in the middle of October, and it was one of the best birthdays I've ever had. Why? Because it was during the pumpkin season that Sauvie Island is known for. I can remember my friends and I running through the fields comparing pumpkins. Our hands getting sticky from hot apple cider and caramel apples. I remember dozing off on the drive home watching the beautiful farm hills as I was lulled to sleep.

Fast forward 15 years and now I am a Sauvie Island resident and employee at Topaz Farm which gives me a unique perspective of the importance of agritourism and the vital source of community that small farms like Topaz and The Pumpkin patch bring to places like Sauvie Island and the state of Oregon.

Small working farms that are open to the community and greater public create a third space in rural places where all people can come together, socialize, learn skills and support local businesses. We don't have a local grocery store that's less than 25 minutes away so these local farm stands create food access to an entire community. Not only that, it's a space for members of the community to be able to see their neighbors (a feat not so easy when your neighbors are miles away).

Local farms and businesses like Topaz are classrooms! They are spaces where children can come and learn about their food, their animals and the land we all protect. In an age where technology is king small family farms are crucial for continuing connection to the land through access.

Living on Sauvie Island has changed my life and the small working farms and farm events are the keystone to that positive change. I support HB 4153 because I believe that small family farms, farm events and access is what makes Oregon a beautiful state for communities and families. Taking away this access and ability for farmers to make a living would crush the ethos of why Oregonians devote their lives to their land and communities.