

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 Laura Check. I am a community member living on the southern Oregon coast. 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. My family depends on the closeness of our small farms and farm stands to provide us with high-quality fresh produce and farm products. It also enables us to support our neighbors & family business, which we dearly value.

We are asking you to 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.

Thank you,

Laura Check

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