

Submitter: Kathleen Dickson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

As a small business owner who relies on small, family farms and ranches to continue growing food for our communities, this bill would, in my opinion, destroy the livelihood of many of my vendors by precluding them from being allowed to participate in farm stands/stores because of their size. This is obviously counter to the spirit of community food systems, something for which I have advocated over the last 20+ years. As Valley Flora Farm says, "Why are we penalizing small farmers for not being able to afford more land, being early on in their farm business journey, or telling folks that they aren't allowed to gather the community at their farm because they are small?" This is just another nail in the coffin for small, rural businesses, and I think Oregon is better than this!

Therefore, I strongly oppose HB 4153 and demand a more inclusive solution. Here in Curry County, we love our small, homegrown farmstands and we don't want to sacrifice them for the ability of a few larger land owners to host more events. Again, Valley Flora Farm says it best: "A solution for Oregon's farm stands should uplift us all."