

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

HB4153 would weaken the very food systems that build resilient communities. Small farms and direct-to-consumer markets aren't just nice alternatives—they're proven to be more efficient with resources, more responsive to local needs, and more economically stable for farmers and their communities. When families buy local, money circulates locally, soil health improves through better stewardship, and we reduce the transportation and storage costs baked into industrial supply chains. But HB4153 does something troubling: it restricts farm stand access based on farm size. A farmer with five acres shouldn't be locked out of selling their own harvest directly to their neighbors. When we gate market access behind arbitrary acreage requirements, we're not protecting consumers—we're protecting consolidated producers from competition. We're telling small farmers their scale doesn't matter, their direct relationships with customers don't count.

If we're serious about food security and sustainability, we need to let any farmer sell their own products. Remove the size restrictions. Invest in infrastructure for small producers. Expand farmers markets. Let communities choose where their food comes from—regardless of how many acres feed it.