

Submitter: Meredith Bell

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 Meredith Bell and I am a wine grape farmer in Oregon City. 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 are struggling and need to have the same opportunities as larger farms to increase revenues and stay financially viable. I personally frequent farm stands that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of this bill. These small farms, myself included, are a vital members of our communities, they are our neighbors and people invested in our local communities and economies. Small farms deserve the same rights as large farms when it comes to defining farm use.

We are asking you to not have 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,

Meredith Bell
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