

Submitter: Victoria Ross

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

My Name is Victoria Ross and I am a member of Dairy Creek Community Food Web organization of Forest Grove I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153. I have been using local farm stands since moving here, now thirteen years. They ones I frequent are very often honor system small stands. I volunteer to pick up extra produce to bring to the local food pantry. Farm stands are a vital part of connecting the public with our food system. Let us build an understanding of what it takes to go from field to fork. I visited a farm (a community event) last year to see for myself all the care and hard work that the farmers go through to get the food growing and harvested and to market.

I am a member of the Tualatin Valley Garden Club. For over fifty years Hillsboro Farmers Market has welcomed our garden members to sell our produce. All farmers, especially the young new farmers need to be able to have direct sales at their farm stands as they grow and learn their neighbors needs and their market. If we don't give them a chance, all the older larger land owners take away that needed opportunity of community engagement. 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 hear from some of the family farmers and write a solution to give small land farmers and local gardeners their historical community honor farm stands.