

Submitter: Erin Maidlow

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 Erin and I am a community member and small farms advocate in Douglas County. 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 many of the small farms we serve and who serve our community make their living off of small farm stands. Many of these farmers operate small farms that fall under the acreage set by this new provision which would eliminate their ability to legally operate their farm stands. While there are many aspects to this bill that we could support, this portion is not something we stand behind.

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,

Erin Maidlow  
Executive Director  
Umpqua Valley Farm to School