

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water



FROM: Farmers Market Fund
SUBJECT: No on HB 4153

Co-Chairs Helm and Owns, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rachael Ward, Executive Director at Farmers Market Fund (FMF) and I am writing today to express our **opposition to House Bill 4153**. Farm stands are a vital part of our community and of food access for thousands of Oregonians. HB 4153 would directly 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 farmers. We need to find a better solution.

The mission of Farmers Market Fund is to make healthy, locally grown food accessible to under-served Oregonians. This mission is grounded in a shared belief that no one should be denied the food they need to eat well. As the creator and main administrator of the Double Up Food Bucks program, which matches the value of SNAP benefits at farmers markets, farm stands, CSAs and grocery stores, **we know what important food access points small farm stands provide rural communities**. We currently work with 20 small farm stands across the state to offer Double Up and under HB 4153, almost all of those farm stands would no longer be allowed to operate. This is a detrimental impact to farmers and the households who rely on them to access fresh, local produce.

Last year, our 20 farm stand partners distributed over \$53,000 worth of Double Up, matching over \$120,000 of SNAP benefits to increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables for some of the most vulnerable Oregonians. **In 2025, the impact of SNAP and Double Up at farm stands equated to over \$311,000 put back into Oregon's local economy. HB 4153, by jeopardizing the operations of small farm stands, will also have a ripple effect on the local economy, primarily in small and rural communities.** Having small farm stands who can offer this service to their community gives shoppers a locally owned retailer to spend their benefits at and ensures federal dollars have the strongest economic impact.

We are asking you to consider the effects of HB 4153 on the smallest farms in Oregon and on the community members who rely on them for food access. This bill takes away opportunities from small land holders and farms in order for larger operations to host more events. This is not a good bargain for so much of Oregon and we urge you to work with small farm advocates to find a solution that works better for small farmers, the local economy and the families that rely on their fresh produce.

Sincerely,



Rachael Ward, Executive Director