

Submitter: Sharon Waterman

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

As a current rancher who grew up in the Willamette Valley on a farm, I recommend you oppose HB 4153 which allows counties to approve farm stores, instead of farm stands, as a nonfarm use on lands zoned for farm use. I was visiting last week on the family farm and as I drove down the rural road, I could just visualize a road full of farm stores, land removed from agriculture production to build the infrastructure for these farm stores and the multitude of people who would be traveling this very rural road which creates a safety issue. We support farm stands which are throughout rural Oregon and support the agriculture economy, I do not believe we should be expanding the nonfarm use language, let alone putting "stores" on farm/ranch properties throughout the State of Oregon. Oregon's goal was to preserve farm land and this does not do that. It just creates more commercial operations on farmland that can create havoc in our agriculture community. Oppose HB 4153.