

Submitter: Shanna Cannon

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Subject: Concerned Local Business Owner

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

I'm writing as a proud Oregonian and small business owner here in Oregon in support of HB4153. Family farms are small businesses just like we are, and we appreciate farm stores giving us the chance to sell our Oregon made products in their store.

These farms aren't just places to visit. They're run by hardworking families who support local jobs, bring life to our rural communities, and help preserve Oregon's agricultural heritage. These rules will alleviate previous confusion at the county level for rule enforcement. Making it easier for farm stores to carry and sell the local goods that I make.

The new rules allow farm stores to sell local products from other local businesses, not just other farms who process their goods. While also allowing the farm stores to not have to get into a philosophical debate on whether an item is a paired item with what their farm grows. These farms will have the same rules apply to them no matter what county they are in. Stopping what many farmers felt was unfair treatment because of each county's different interpretation.

We are locally made in Oregon, even if it is not made at a Farmstand, shouldn't Oregon businesses promote each other? With so many Oregon businesses leaving this State right now, we want to encourage you to support these local businesses who wish to remain here. Not make their businesses more difficult and ultimately drive them away too.

Farmstands and agritourism businesses deserve our support—not more pressure. They're already doing the hard work of growing food, welcoming visitors, educating the public, and keeping our rural economy strong. Please stand with them and support HB4153. Let's make sure Oregon continues to be a place where agriculture, small business and community thrive together.

Thank you for listening and for standing up for Oregon's farmers.

Sincerely,

Shanna Cannon, Eugene Oregon