

Submitter: Becky White

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

Members of the Committee:

I am the owner of a small family farm in rural Oregon with rights to the bountiful well of pure water on my property.. having a steady supply of potable water was in fact a deal breaking requirement when searching for a place to live and grow food 20 years ago. During my adult life I have raised food for myself and others in three different states, using strictly organic methods and it has always been optimal NOT to have to purify water from municipal sources or pay expensive water bills. We are fortunate to say that we've also never had any issues with the supply due to conscientious irrigation practices.

Although we have never had had more than .75 acre in production at any one time, anyone who knows anything about farming on ANY Scale knows that good wells are a critical and integral part of being a rural farmer. Farms are remote from city and municipal water supplies by design! Restricting the ability to grow and share food, whether it be as a market gardener, CSA, commercial farmer, or a family planting an "extra row for the hungry," is an egregious ' act of government overreach, which is why I support HB 3372 as the only acceptable compromise presented to date.

It is imperative that communities retain the ability to feed themselves, and we've seen firsthand the importance of doing so during the Covid-19 pandemic. As supply chains are disrupted and international tariffs threaten to create more food insecurity than ever, we MUST preserve the right of farmers to farm, farmers to feed people, farmers to provide food, without continually paralyzing us with bureaucracy. It is a time to be finding ways to feed MORE people, not less.

Please vote for HB 3372.

Thank you,  
Becky White  
Clatskanie, OR