

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 Matthew Collum, and I am a community member and farmer from Corvallis. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3372.

Currently, Oregon's domestic exempt well law permits the irrigation of up to half an acre for non-commercial purposes, household, industrial, and commercial purposes use of up to 5,000 gallons per day per well without requiring a water right. However, utilizing this water for commercial crop irrigation is prohibited without proper authorization.

Recognizing the importance of safeguarding our limited groundwater resources, I believe that HB 3372 presents a balanced approach. By allowing limited commercial irrigation—restricted to half an acre with a specified daily gallon cap—the bill ensures responsible water use while supporting small-scale and emerging farmers.

To further protect our aquifers, I propose incorporating verifiable monitoring practices, such as water meters and mandatory registration with the Oregon Water Resources Department. These measures have proven effective in other jurisdictions for preventing resource misuse and ensuring sustainable water management.

Enabling limited commercial irrigation from domestic wells will not only bolster local economies but also promote inclusivity by providing opportunities for first-generation farmers and traditionally marginalized communities to engage in agriculture. This initiative aligns with sustainable water management practices.

I respectfully urge your support for HB 3372 to facilitate responsible agricultural development while preserving Oregon's vital water resources.

Thank you,

Matthew Collum

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