

Dear Co-chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water:

I'm writing to you today, to express my support for House Bill 3372. As a small acreage Christmas tree farmer in Canby, Oregon, the heart of Willamette Valley farmland, this bill would help us create multi-season revenue.

We currently have a 13 acre farm, 4 acres of which are in non-irrigated Christmas trees, 7 acres are in pasture for our animals, and a small garden. Like most small acreage farmers, we have been looking for sustainable ways to create additional income for our farm. We are aware we are not a commercial farm with unlimited acres, harvesting equipment, and large crews. However, any additional income from our farm is helpful in maintaining the land, animals, and helps our family financially.

When we chose to purchase our property, we were looking for a place to raise our children, and build a level of self sufficiency, through raising our own meat and growing our own fruits and vegetables. We would love to be able to share some of our bounty with the local community. Currently, it would be against Oregon law to sell any items from our garden, because we do not have water rights. We are surrounded by much larger commercial farms, and a wholesale nursery. Even if we went through the costly permit process to obtain water rights, it would be difficult as we have not been grandfathered in.

Being able to use a domestic well to support a small commercial garden would be beneficial not only to our local food systems, communities but also in sustaining small family farms statewide.

Thank you for your consideration, we are hopeful you will do what is best for small family farmers in Oregon.

Sincerely,  
Amy Drouhard  
Drouhard Heritage Farms