

Submitter: Eva Edleson

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

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 Eva, and I am a community member from Eugene. I am writing today in strong support of HB 3372. This bill is a necessary step in protecting small farms, strengthening local food systems, and ensuring that water use regulations remain fair and reasonable.

Currently, Oregon law allows the use of domestic well water for watering lawns and noncommercial gardens up to ½ acre, but it prohibits the use of that same water for growing food or farm products for sale. The law currently favors non-essential water use over productive, community-oriented agriculture, despite both falling under the same usage thresholds.

The data is clear—domestic wells account for only 4% of groundwater use in Oregon, while irrigation water rights holders use 82%. Allowing small farmers to grow food for sale under reasonable limitations (½ acre and a daily gallon cap) will not create an unsustainable burden on the water system.

This bill simply corrects an inconsistency in the law—if using well water is allowed for non-commercial landscaping, it should also be allowed for small-scale agriculture that benefits the community. It provides a reasonable, balanced solution by allowing small-scale agriculture to operate within existing water limits while respecting conservation efforts.

If this bill does not pass, we risk further limiting economic opportunities for small farmers and reducing access to fresh, local food. Farming is already a challenge, and small-scale farmers should not be forced to choose between compliance and survival.

I urge you to support HB 3372 and allow small farms to continue providing for our communities. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Eva Edleson