

Submitter: Nathan Champion

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

04/02/2025

RE: Letter in Support of Commercial Use of Domestic Wells for Agriculture HB 3372

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

To whom it may concern,

My name is Nathan Champion and I am owner and operator of Champion Acres Nursery LLC in Cottage Grove, Oregon. We are a small, family-owned wholesale plant start nursery and am writing you today in support of the proposed bill HB 3372.

We are a small farm that hand waters all our container stock, and we did think we were above board until we heard of the inspections by the OWRD at some local farms. Ahead of receiving a compliance letter from the OWRD regarding our well use, we began installing a rainwater catchment system that is currently in operation.

Our ability to store rainwater is limited by space and annual rainfall. Lack of water or poor water quality will end our sales and growing season much earlier than desired and halt any production. At the end of season, we will be forced to lay off our employees, risking that they find new jobs and do not return the following season. It also prevents us from producing any long cycle plant material that we would hold over for sales in the following year.

The current proposal would supply enough water from a domestic well to support our business throughout the year, especially in combination with our rainwater collection system. It would also allow the opportunity for some future expansion and growth of the business. There are many small businesses that are facing the reality of closure due to the recent decisions in enforcement. I truly feel for very small farms that do not have the means or ability to create a rainwater or alternate water source.

Please support HB 3372 and keeping small farms alive and an option in Oregon.

Thank you,

Nathan Champion

Champion Acres Nursery LLC

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