



April 4, 2025

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

Our names are **Jim Wilburn and Paul Chamlies, the owners of the ChamBurn Farm LLC in Oregon City**. We are writing today to **SUPPORT HB 3372**. Currently in Oregon it is legal to water a ½ acre garden or use 5,000 gal/day for a commercial purpose, but neither of those apply to growing food and farm products for sale. Why is it legal to use the water for personal use, but selling a single zucchini from my garden would mean I was breaking the law?

This personally impacts us because: **It is currently unlawful for us to grow produce “for sale” using our onsite domestic well as water for our garden. We currently serve 70 households monthly in the Portland Metro area with our Meat and Egg CSA Subscription. Many customers have inquired about adding Produce to their CSA, but we have informed them it is currently against State Law to sell produce grown on our farm to the public. The irony is that we can lawfully grow enough fruits and vegetables to feed our personal household and hundreds of our livestock, but it is unlawful for us to grow the same food for human consumption for sale through our online store.**

What would help our Small Farm Thrive and Benefit the Public?

- **Having the ability to sell produce grown on our farm by increasing our customer base by being able to offer a wider selection of consumables beyond meat and eggs (i.e. fruits and vegetables).**
- **The impact on the groundwater system: Our entire garden is irrigated using drip irrigation that runs for 20 minutes per day. This is a very low amount of water consumption amounting to about 20 gallons of water per day. That is a near zero impact to the groundwater system. The average domestic household consumes about 300 gallons of water per day, making our usage a “DROP IN THE BUCKET”!**
- **The current law limits our ability to have a more diverse revenue stream and help our business thrive through the ability to sell produce to the public along with our meat and eggs.**

Let’s step up to the table and be realistic about what we prioritize for water use in our state. Allowing people to grow food or farm products for sale with a gallon restriction on ½ acre will not bankrupt the system, and farming is too much work for people to rush into production on such a small scale. Give communities back the ability to feed and provide for themselves, pass HB 3372.

Thank you,

James Wilburn & Paul Chamlies



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