

I am writing in support of HB 3372.

“OWRD estimates that all the domestic wells (88% of the number of wells in OR) in the state use only 4% of the groundwater pumped out of the ground for any reason, while irrigation water rights holders (7% of the wells) use 82% of the water pumped out of the ground for any reason.” *FoFF*

Is this really about water conservation at all?

So, if 1 out of 4 domestic well owners were currently selling produce without water rights, according to the OWRD's best estimates, then this crackdown on illegal water use is all about **1%** of total water use in Oregon. There is no way in the world that 1 out of 4 domestic wells is being used for selling produce; more like 1 in 50 or fewer. We're actually talking about **.08%** of current water use according to OWRD.

I've heard the numbers, and I can't understand why there's any pushback for selling a little healthy home grown fruits and vegetables. Using far less water than allowed to normal homes, what could the fears be? That if HB 3372 passes, all of a sudden people are going to wake up and realize that they could get stinking rich by selling home grown cucumbers? Have you considered how many hours go into small farming? Is the thinking that farming is going to become more popular with the passage of HB 3372?

If we were really afraid of water shortages, why don't we have a water monitoring system, starting with the biggest users? And what are the legal barriers to water conservation such as grey water use? And honestly, if this was really about water conservation, what difference does it make to the state how we line up the rows in our garden?

There's no way in the world we need 5000 gallons a day to water our garden, when we're using drip system and a rain catchment system as well. I estimate we need about 500 gallons a day for total garden and orchard, taking up almost an acre. And what's with the ½ acre part of the bill? Am I allowed to grow a long line of trees instead or would you prefer a nice rectangle? What will the allowable configuration of our garden beds be? Will terracing be allowed if we're on a hill?

So now I can't legally sell fruits and veggies out of my tiny farm stand along with the goat milk and eggs (still \$6 a dozen!) Now our little farmers market at the local grange is struggling without small farmers attending. Obviously this isn't really about water at all, is it.