

Submitter: Kim Hamblin

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

Hello and thank you for taking my testimony. I'm writing in support of HB 3372

My name is Kim Hamblin and my husband and I operate a small farm outside of Sheridan in Yamhill County. We dry farm apples, pears, quince and grapes and run a small tasting room.

I am also a Realtor and have seen first hand how access to farm land is dwindling in the Willamette Valley, especially for young farmers. It's already hard to find affordable farm land, and nearly impossible to find affordable ground WITH water rights. I hear all the time that farmers are aging out and having a hard time finding people to run that acreage. It's not that young people don't WANT to farm, it's that they are priced out of the ability to own land.

I support this bill because I think our communities need more access to healthy food, not less; especially in our more rural areas where fresh healthy food isn't always available. Small farmers can fill a niche in our states agriculture by selling food directly to their communities. In our local McMinnville farmers market, we have had two of the biggest farmers decide to not participate this season- one decided to get out of farming and the other decided to shift and focus on non-market activities. These gaps will impact market goers. I'd love to see more farm stands with people selling to their neighbors and local communities

I also understand the need to be protective of our water use as a state. It seems much more wasteful to water your lawn than to grow food and crops that you can sell. Small farmers need diverse ways to make a living. I'd rather see the state implement measures to encourage water to sink on the land and replenish our aquifers than police micro farms. Incentivizing smart water use seems like a better use of our dollars than policing small farms selling food.

thank you for the opportunity to connect,
Kim

Kim Hamblin
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