



Evans Farm Produce and Provisions  
1615 NW Cavens Lane  
Hillsboro, OR. 97124

April 5, 2025

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing to support House Bill 3327 - Small Farm Water Access. It has been brought to my attention that there is a law limiting small farmers the ability to sell produce from their farms if it has been grown using their own well water. This needs to change.

Food is life. The availability of food makes a community more resilient in the face of disasters such as: climate change, earthquakes, civil unrest. Without food we are relying on supply chains that could be disrupted at anytime, leaving our communities vulnerable.

In 1981 my parents began farming a one acre plot of blueberries using overhead sprinklers that ran off of our family well. We sold those berries to a local cannery. We also grew pumpkins to sell for 3 weeks before Halloween. We stood on the Tualatin Valley Hwy as cars pulled up to buy what we had grown.

In 1988 my parents purchased the 24 acre farm my husband and children and I live on today. It sits along Dairy Creek and we had to sign away some of our water rights in order to have our land be irrigated by the Tualatin Valley Irrigation District. This was Ok until into about we were told that in order to sell our blueberries to the cannery, we needed to adhere to Greater Agricultural Practices (GAP). GAP sets forth some anti- natural barriers such as prohibiting any animal feces in your garden or growing

patch (it's pretty hard to control deer and songbirds from heeding nature's call.) But the most troublesome of all was all irrigation water is required to have a Clorox filter placed at the well head that supplied the irrigation water to our fields. This was not something we were willing to do. The whole idea is to take chlorine OUT of the environment not add chlorine to it. Clorox has made lots of money by insisting on this regulation. I keep thinking about how my grandparents would have laughed at the notion of putting bleach on plants to make them "clean".

Later, I found out from a crop consultant that a wild pig had gotten sick and died in an irrigation ditch. This ditch was the water source for many large farms in California. The crop consultant said that the two crops most affected were crops that were low to the ground and "held" the water in its crown like spinach and strawberries. Not cane berries or blueberries where the water drips off. He said this was the reason for spinach and strawberry re-calls. This was back in 2008 or so.

Small farms do not have irrigation ditches or big pipes in those ditches to pump and hurl water out over their crops. So why can't they sell the crops they grow? Most small farms use drip irrigation and are very conscious of their water use. So why can't they sell the crops they grow? Water that comes from a residential well in a rural area has been filtered by the earth and has been cleaned by many impurities making it safer to use for growing crops. And lastly, our nation needs small scale family farms more than ever given how many people are losing their jobs, and economic uncertainty is an issue.

Please support House Bill 3372.

Sincerely,

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