

Submitter: Rebecca Javorsky

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

Rebecca and Larry Javorsky
Pansy Lane Farm
Coos Bay Oregon

While driving the back roads of Oregon, it is such a pleasure to see quaint farm stands on the side of the roads. And many of us love the local farmers markets in our communities. Without a way to water the crops on small farms, both of these iconic features of Oregon will disappear.

We know that eating fresh and local foods is a great way to increase the health of our communities. Many of these local foods are grown on very small plots of land (less than ½ acre) and often grown without the use of pesticides and herbicides. By allowing these small farms to use well water from the wells on their property, we are actually protecting water (large farms often use more chemicals which then go into the ground water.) Laws that now allow us to water our lawns and huge personal gardens from our wells prohibit a small farm from watering their crops if they intend to sell them. This is nonsensical. Regardless, if a person is watering their lawn, growing produce or themselves or for others, it is the same water. By protecting small farms rights to use well water, we are increasing and promoting the health of our communities, and lessening dependence on fossil fuels by needing to transport all of our food from far away, and protecting people's livelihoods.

Small farms make a big difference to all of us. Since, water is precious, let's help local small farms use their ground water wisely, promote local food production and promote local health. With the current protections in place, allowing small farmers to have a way to water their crops (1/2 acre or less), is a plus for all.

Please support house bill 3372.

Respectfully,
Rebecca and Larry Javorsky,
Coos Bay, Oregon.