

My name is Talus, I am a Corvallis food business owner. I am writing to you today to support HB 3372. I want this to pass because I enjoy having an abundant and diverse array of local suppliers who provide high-quality ingredients for developing flavorful, nutrient-dense dishes for my clients.

If many of the farms that depend on the exemption to function are no longer available since they can't sell produce because they use well water, that makes it more difficult to provide a diverse menu for the food experiences I create. I love to buy local, especially food. It tastes better and feels better (healthwise) to eat food grown from the land I walk on. I always have high-quality ingredients on hand because of the small farms in my area.

Small farms and garden producers should have the ability to sell what they already grow and produce from their well water. If these people are now using 5000 gallons of well water per day on a ½ acre to grow food and gardens for non-commercial use under the exemption, why not let them sell their produce for commercial use? Plus, some commercial use is already legal. Why not let them sell produce?

HB 3372 still fits within the parameters of limiting water usage, and it allows for a gardener or small farmer to develop extra income from selling the produce they are currently growing.

Based on OWRD estimates, 4% of the state's groundwater is used by domestic wells for any reason. That's a tiny portion of water being used within the state's population. Folks who use wells have a naturally small water usage footprint. It's a small impact. HB 3372 should pass to help these small operations thrive, they provide so many benefits.

Small farms like these are important, they tend to do innovative things like regenerative farming/gardening techniques that help improve the environmental landscape ecologically, will use less water by practicing dry farming which maximizes limited water availability, and many use native plants and develop natural habitat for local animal species, helping bee and other pollinator populations thrive. Having healthy pollinators is essential for

growing excellent produce. If these farms or gardens disappear, our ecological diversity may decrease.

A lot of the produce I've bought for my business and personal meal prep has been from small operations or gardeners. The food they grow seems more likely to develop highly delicious, more nutrient-dense vegetables and fruits.

Many of the farmers I know participate in SNAP or similar programs, providing people who lack access to good produce with amazing food to eat. And, in participating in those programs, the farmer or gardener gains a new income stream because they have a whole new group of customers buying their produce. SNAP made that possible. If these types of farms get shut down because of the commerce restriction, that depletes an income stream for many community members.

Passing 3372 could help create a more even economic playing field for community members on the well exemption. Give already exempt well users a chance to play in the economic field. Please, pass HB 3372.

Thank you for reading my statement.

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