

Jessie Brown
78239 Snauer Lane
Cottage Grove, OR 97424

To:

Co-chairs Ken Helm and Mark Owens, Vice-Chair Sarah Finger McDonald and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water:

Dear Legislators Ken Helm and Mark Owens

My name is Jessie Brown. I am one of your constituents from the Cottage Grove area in Lane County. I am writing today to support HB 3372. Currently in Oregon it is legal to water a ½ acre personal garden or use 5,000 gal/day for raising livestock and unrestricted other commercial purpose, but not to grow produce for sale. Why is it legal to use the water under my property for everything else, but selling a single carrot from my garden would mean I was breaking the law?

This personally impacts me because: I am not allowed to benefit my community by selling excess produce grown in my garden. It is a fact that the further away from the cities we are, the lower we are on the delivery priority for produce. Pity the children never to enjoy the sweet tang of ripe Marionberries baked into a scrumptious, juice dripping, hand pie or the sugary goodness of fresh-picked carrots and snow peas. Think of the generations who grew up on homemade jam, pickled peppers and vine ripened tomatoes. But now, because they don't live in Eugene, the freshest, most nutritious produce is not available to everyone. If I work to make it happen, why can't I sell my extra at the local farmer's market? I garden, I vote, and I care.

Consider the common sense that domestic wells, are ½ horsepower pumps which are capable of drawing three gallons of water a minute, (which is 180 gallons an hour.) At this rate 4,320 gallons is the maximum that could be pumped in 24 hours. This would be within the allowed, specified limit and there would be no need for expensive monitors to track, or a department or neighbors policing of water usage required.

Please see the logic of expediting the removal of this archaic error from the existing law. I appreciate that you are working for the good of your constituents and understand the need to correct this oversight.

Sincerely,

Jessie Brown
SoulShine Family Farm
78239 Snauer Lane

Cottage Grove, OR 97424