

To Whom it does concern:

My wife and I are writing to Support HB 3372. We own Gathering Together farm. It is 60 acres of intensive mixed vegetable production with farmgate revenue of 2.5 million. We sell a lot of produce within our community, but it is the small farms and ½ acre truck gardens who fill the stalls at the Farmers Market and the roadside stands who make our food web complete.

Our regional food security is not supported by solely large corporate agriculture. What we eat and what makes a vibrant food landscape also depends on small time farmers, part time farmers, hobby gardeners. These are people working small plots of land that would otherwise be overlooked by larger scale ag operations. As we continue to lose ag production land it makes no sense to write off these small parcels to lawns and unused neglect. I know many of the small farmers that will be put out of business if this bill is not passed. They know how to farm and they use water farm more fastidiously than the boys with the 100 gal/min wells shooting big gun water on grass land.

If, we as Oregonians are using our water wisely for the greatest public benefit then supporting small farmers ½ plots is a winner for everyone.

Respectfully,

John Eveland and Sally Brewer

Owners: Gathering Together Farm

Philomath, Oregon

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