

Submitter: Val Rocco

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

I am a small farmer in the southern Willamette Valley and I implore Oregon lawmakers to examine and adjust our water usage policies in order to allow small farmers to use their well water to produce food for small communities in Oregon. Small farmers are at the heart of the small farmers markets in many rural communities. Consumers in smaller towns throughout Oregon depend on small farmers as a weekly source of seasonal food for their families, a source for culturally specialized food items, connection to the land, and a vital lifeline during times of crisis. While the larger farmers are bringing their produce to larger urban areas, the small farmers fill a vital niche and sustain communities by bringing local food to areas with smaller populations.

Oregon needs to consider the impact of shutting down small farmers commercial operations due to archaic water usage laws. The impact is that it will make rural communities less sustainable, which is especially impactful during current times when we have more frequent climate crisis. I strongly urge you to support HP 3372.