

Submitter: Sarah Smith

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

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

My name is Sarah Smith, I have a small market garden in Milwaukie, Oregon. I grow salad greens, herbs, vegetables, and fruit to sell. I am writing today to support HB 3372-5.

Oregon's domestic exempt well law is a barrier to many small farmers looking to grow food for their community. While every farmer I know is thrifty with water, many are not able to legally water their gardens because they rely on a domestic well for irrigation water.

I have spent the past several years looking for a small piece of acreage to grow my little market garden business. Properties with municipal water, large enough for my needs (1/4 -1/2 acre growing space) are too costly. Large properties with a dedicated irrigation well are way more land than I care to cultivate. Allowing the use of domestic well water for commercial market gardens of ½ acre or less would allow many small farms to grow food for their community and strengthen our local food system.

Thank you for taking the time to consider adding this exemption to Oregon's domestic well law.

Sarah Smith  
Milwaukie, Oregon 97222