

Submitter: D Torres
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372
Chair & Committee Members,

I now support HB 3372.

I find it quite interesting that a homeowner is allowed to use well water for a non-environmentally-friendly lawn but small farmers are not allowed to use their wells to grow healthy food. Currently in Oregon it is legal to water a ½ acre garden or use 5,000 gal/day for a commercial purpose, but neither of those apply to growing food and farm products for sale!

Amending this law would rectify the all-or-nothing reality of farming in NE Oregon, and enable dozens of micro-farmers to both make money and feed their neighbors.

We need to be realistic about what we prioritize for water use in our state. Allowing people to grow food or farm products for sale with a gallon restriction on ½ acre will not bankrupt the system, and farming is too much work for people to rush into production on such a small scale. Give communities back the ability to feed and provide for themselves, pass HB 3372.