

4/28/2025

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire:

My name is Gary May and I am a small-scale Rancher from Amity. I am writing today to support HB 3372 A. Currently in Oregon, it is legal to water a ½ acre garden or use 5,000 gal/day for a commercial purpose using a domestic well, but neither of those apply to growing food and farm products for sale. Why is it legal to use the water for personal use, but selling a single Tomato from my garden would mean I was breaking the law?

This personally impacts me because: As a small-scale rancher, I still have an off-farm job. With the ability to irrigate and sell products from a ½ acre I could work full time on the farm to make a living.

I Investigated applying for a water right and found it overwhelming and I did not have the resources to hire an attorney with no guarantee of ever establishing a right.

We need to be thoughtful about what we prioritize for water use in our state. This bill is a simple, common-sense solution that would allow people to sell the food and farm products that are already legal to grow, while adding reasonable limitations to the amount of water that can be used.

Give communities back the ability to feed and provide for themselves, and pass HB 3372 A!

Thank you,

Gary May
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