

Dear Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. I write in opposition to HB 3372.

This bill creates a water right for commercial use from residential wells absent any consideration of aquifer and water data upon which to approve previously unpermitted groundwater use.

The bill is a one-size-fits-all disaster in the making: 3000 gallons of groundwater per day per residential user = 1 acre ft of groundwater use every 4 months per person = one million eighty thousand gallons of unmonitored, previously illegal water use per year per residential user = a half-million gallons per residential user per six-month growing season.

Currently in the United States each person uses an average of 82 gallons of water a day at home (USGS, Estimated Use of Water in the United States in 2015).

Before throwing the door open to dramatically increased, unmonitored, unregulated residential water use, the bill has not provided current aquifer and water data with which to analyze the impacts of HB 3372, including impacts of conflicts among neighbors this bill will ignite. And the bill lacks consideration of the financial impacts to taxpayers “drained” by the increased water use of neighbors as permitted here.

HB 3372 also fails to provide for measuring and monitoring water use, data collection, data analysis, or any enforcement of its daily 3000-gallon per residential user free-for-all.

The increased work and stress HB 3372 will heap on the Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD) will be significant and irresponsible. The agency is already overworked with water issues and complications mounting by the day. There is no fiscal note or recognition of the impacts to the agency.

Please keep in mind some basic facts provided by EPA:

- Outdoor water use accounts for more than 30 percent of total average household water use – 82 gallons per person per day – but can be as much as 60 percent of total household water use in arid regions.
- If the average sized lawn in the United States is watered for 20 minutes every day for 7 days, it's like running the shower constantly for 4 days or taking more than 800 showers. That's equivalent to the amount of water needed for the average family to take daily showers for a year.
- As much as 50 percent of the water we use outdoors is lost due to wind, evaporation, and runoff caused by inefficient irrigation methods and systems. (<https://www.epa.gov/watersense/statistics-and-facts>)

It will take decades, and possibly longer due to climate change, for the basin providing my domestic water to recover from being depleted by illegal residential groundwater use by a neighbor. Although WRD stopped the illegal use and the agency has been excellent to work with, HB 3372 will legalize and spread across the state unmonitored overuse of groundwater that has caused years of stress and financial harm to me.

I'm counting on you to vote against HB 3372.