

Submitter: Sharon Waterman  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and  
Wildfire  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

As a rural residential land owner and agriculture producer, we must comply with all the regulations of OWRD. HB 3372, permits certain exempt ground water users to withdraw up to 3,000 gallons of water per day for watering any lawn or noncommercial or commercial garden that does not exceed one-half acre and this bill needs to be opposed as written. The bill covers all of Oregon including the areas that are ground water limited. As an owner of a small acreage with a shared well, we know what can actually happen when that water is used for an added agriculture use. In our case, the water was used for livestock watering and the aquifer during the dry season didn't have the quantity to support such additional use to the exempt residential well and the additional water draw caused the residences to have no water. Fortunately, our systems are set up with water tanks so we could buy water to get by until the aquifer filled back up. This bill would take water away from the homes that had priority usage. This bill needs parameters that all agriculture water users must follow and must not adversely impact existing primary water rights users or residential houses on the aquifer. I understand this bill is designed to fix a problem with the sale of such commercial gardens and the fix should not include exemption of water usage. Please do not support this bill as written. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.