

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

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and members of the committee. I appreciate the opportunity to give comment in support of HB3372 and in opposition to the Amendment A11.

My name is Jason Lampman and I own and operate a diversified farm on EFU zoned land in Yamhill County Oregon. On less than a half acre, with my wife and 3 children, we cultivate market vegetables, tend an award winning hazelnut crop (named Best in Yamhill County), maintain an active industrial hemp license, and run an OLCC licensed Micro Tier cannabis farm following and guided by a commitment to sustainability.

I specifically chose EFU zoned land due to Oregon's long standing protections and support for farmers.

HB 3372 modernizes Oregon's agriculture statutes by clearly including small "commercial gardens" in the exemption from groundwater registration or permitting requirements outlined in ORS 537.545. It treats all agricultural commodities equally, including those grown by legal hemp and OLCC licensed cannabis producers like myself. However, the amendment A11 would significantly narrow this beneficial definition, explicitly excluding cannabis grown by OLCC licensees while continuing to include industrial hemp. This targeted exclusion disadvantages state licensed cannabis producers undermining the equitable goals HB3372 seeks to achieve.

Under Oregon law (ORS 475C.489), cannabis is explicitly recognized as:

- A crop for purposes of "farm use" (ORS 215.203)
- A product of farm use (ORS 308A.062), and
- A product of agricultural activity (ORS 568.909).

Cannabis is unquestionably a legal agricultural crop in Oregon and deserves equal respect and protection under our laws, especially when responsibly cultivated by licensed producers who already comply with more regulations and oversight than any other agricultural sector in the state. Additionally, the cannabis industry employs over 7,500 Oregonians and cannabis is one of the few products subject to sales tax, significantly contributing to vital state revenues.

Practically speaking, there is no environmental or societal difference between a gallon of water used on a licensed hemp, grass, hop, hazelnut, grape, wheat, or

cannabis farm; and thus, there should be no legal distinction either.

The A11 Amendment undermines these principles by specifically excluding cannabis farms from the small scale water use exemption. Even extremely small farms like mine which use only 50 - 100 gallons of water per day across all crops, including cannabis, hemp, veggies, and orchard nuts.

The genuine threat to Oregon's water supply does not come from small, licensed, craft sustainable family farms like mine. Rather, it comes from large scale illegal operations that divert and misuse water without oversight or regulation. In oral testimony the water division claimed cannabis must be excluded to ensure legal compliance. This is simply untrue. There is no literal or hypothetical reasoning that could explain why hemp would be included but cannabis cannot. There is a grant fund and numerous bills have been passed to protect Oregon from unlicensed production of hemp and cannabis and success is rising. If problems persist enforcement resources should be directed toward addressing the illicit activities rather than penalizing Oregon's smallest and most regulated agricultural producers.

Amendment A11 sends precisely the wrong message to responsible farmers who comply with the law and practice sustainability through limited footprints and size. Farming is a demanding profession and the only way I can succeed on such a small scale and parcel of land is by growing a diverse range of crops including cannabis, orchard trees, vegetables, and hemp, and by having representatives who understand and support the unique challenges of small farms and businesses like mine.

This amendment sends the wrong message to farmers doing it the right way. I urge you to pass HB 3372 without the amendment and support small farms.

Thank You,
Jason