

HARTT Laura A * WRD

From: Alex Clark <callinstead@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2024 12:07 PM
To: HARTT Laura A * WRD
Subject: Public Comment Water Rights - Neskowin Farmers Market Board

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Hello Laura-

I wanted to log a public comment on behalf of the Neskowin Farmers Market, of which I sit on the Board, as well as a member of the community of Neskowin who relies on Farmers Markets and local farms for fresh produce.

We have a local farm, Odonata Farm, located in Hebo, OR, in South Tillamook County, who was told to stop commercial operations based on enforcement of this policy by the State Water Master.

While this enforcement makes sense from a viewpoint somewhat removed from the realities of fresh food scarcity and food deserts, the closing of small forms like Odonata significantly impacts residents of underserved areas like Tillamook County. Odonata Farm was scheduled to be a weekly vendor at the Neskowin Market, one of only three farms, serving a huge swath of South Tillamook County. Their absence significantly reduces access to healthy vegetables to the residents here, who are already underserved and now have to rely on places like Safeway and Grocery Outlet outside of the county.

We would like to see consideration given to small farms like this providing critical food supplies to underserved communities, particularly due to the fact that 1. They are small and their water usage is minimal when compared to larger users, and 2. They are in the Coast Range, an area known for having more than enough water. Why not extend the loophole of allowing 5000 gal/day to irrigation as well?

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope there is a way to protect our water supply without hurting those of us that need the products of that water supply the most.

Alex Clark
Neskowin, OR
Newkowin Farmers Market Board Member