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Roseburg, OR 97470

April 10, 2024

Laura Hart  
Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Farming and Growing our Own Food in Oregon

Dear Ms. Hart:

I have read that Oregon considers all water to belong to the state and because of this, are working to stop or restrict small Oregon farmers from using their well water to water their personal produce gardens and/or their livestock. This appears to be an attempt to restrict or in effect destroy homestead dairies as well as people who, growing a small amount of food for their own consumption have in your estimation the temerity to sell/share excess with their neighbors.

I have to ask, why are you trying to shut down Oregon's small dairy farms, stop rural farmers growing food which we all need for survival, and in effect shut down food and milk production. Oregon is a state filled with rural homes and farms. Many rely heavily on the land to provide for themselves and their families. This is something Oregon should celebrate and encourage but it would seem that through harsh regulations and restricting the use of God given water you are doing just the opposite. I read that Mike McCord, Northwest Region Manager with the Oregon Water Resources Department has actually stated that **'water is a finite resource. And that although a commercial or industrial business is allowed to use up to 5,000 gallons of water without a water right; that exemption does not include watering a food crop.'** This statement is not only unfair but insane. In effect you are saying Oregon values and supports industrial use of water, but people raising animals and produce to feed us is not welcome in Oregon.

A direct quote from the article "Engineering Famine: **Oregon starts SHUTTING DOWN small farms "to protect the people"**". You do realize we need food to live and that our farmers and ranchers are the backbone of our state, the ones who keep us all going by providing the food we need to live?

This oppressive insanity has to stop. Please rethink all these destructive restrictions and plans and **stop** them. Instead of ruining our state, our people and destroying our food sources, I ask that you start doing more to support 'the little guy' - our small farms, small dairy operations and in effect the majority of us who live in Oregon.

Very truly yours,



Ilona Frost  
Roseburg, Oregon

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