

**From:** [Bee Easy Farm LLC](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for 5/12 re:Executive Order 25-26  
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Good Morning Gorge Commissioners,

I took the opportunity to read through Governor Kotek's Executive Order no. 25-26, and **wanted to share a recent battle I had with Multnomah County Land Use on a critical farm resiliency project on my GGA-40 zoned farm.**

I'm collaborating with USDA NRCS & the EMSWCD to secure my farm's access to water. We successfully drilled a **livestock well this spring, and intend to run that water out to my animals via a below ground 1/2" PEX pipe with a water storage tank** at the top of the hill to gravity feed down to the livestock watering troughs. The tank footprint is under the 60 sqft permitting threshold, the pipe at the same depth that I would plow. The well is specifically a livestock well for my livestock - both the well & the livestock are allowed outright uses on my EFU zoned farm.

NRCS required that I reach out to Land Use to determine if I needed a permit. Mult Co Land Use replied that I needed a **FULL REVIEWED USE** to run the water to my animals. I confirmed this with the principal planner, who also looped in the deputy director. A full reviewed use is what I would need to put in a carwash, costs \$3,000, and most impactful - one year of permitting - a whole year where I wouldn't be able to run water to my animals. Livestock is an allowed use on my farm land, and they require water, it doesn't make sense that getting them water requires the same permit as a car wash.

2026 is projected to be another record heat year. Snow levels are a fraction of average, and I can't get the water I just spent you don't even want to know how much getting to my animals because of how the working lands code is written. **I can't afford a whole year of delay here, my animals need water this season** if we're going to make it through. I'm investing in this critical resilience project so that I can adapt to the changing climate.

Ultimately I spent hours and hours of my precious time in the middle of the busy spring season calling everyone who could help. I spoke with my County commissioner, my state level representatives, the farm bureau, friends of family farmers, you name it just to get the County to find a pathway forward which would allow me to get this critical resiliency project functional. I'm thankful to everyone who called the County on my behalf, and also **deeply frustrated that I had to go to those lengths and turn up the political pressure for them to say that actually a "Minimal Impact Project Review" would be sufficient.**

I took the time to write all of this up today during busy season, because the Scenic area has a lot of room for improvement when it comes to the permitting process for working lands to adapt to the changing climate (2a.iv.). **It should not have taken me three months and endless hours of my time to get a sensible path forward to implement a low impact critical working lands resilience project.**

In my opinion, minimally impactful projects which are necessary to actually do the allowed use on working lands, like running water for livestock, should be low barrier. As we face the

reality of our changing climate, water resilience in particular is critically important. **That looks like water storage tanks, water collection infrastructure, and putting piping below ground - which in light of the Governor's Executive Order should be low barrier.**

Thank you,  
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