

Submitter: Taylor Brunswick

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

Co-chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water,

I am a Corvallis resident and I write to express my strong support for HB 3372. Oregon currently allows up to 5,000 gallons per day for commercial purposes or watering a half-acre garden for personal use. However, there is an inconsistency when it comes to small-scale food production. Why is it permissible to use water for personal gardens, but when a neighbor sells a single zucchini, they risk breaking the law?

This issue hits close to home for me, as I'm an avid supporter of local farmers' markets. I've spoken to farmers who are afraid of selling their produce because they fear legal repercussions. I've also heard stories of schools teaching kids about agriculture and entrepreneurship, only to be forced to shut down when they attempt to sell the plants they've grown. Meanwhile, these same schools can maintain acres of irrigated lawns without restriction. I believe we should be supporting local, sustainable food production, not discouraging it.

We must reconsider our approach to water usage in Oregon, particularly when it comes to growing food. The reality is that allowing individuals and small-scale farmers to sell food with a reasonable gallon restriction will not put our water resources in jeopardy. Farming is hard, physical work, and no one is going to rush into food production at such a small scale unless it's worth the effort. It's time we empower communities to feed themselves and foster local, sustainable agriculture.

Please pass HB 3372 and allow our state to prioritize food security alongside water conservation.

Thanks
Taylor