

Submitter: Barbara Dumesnil

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:

My name is Barbara Dumesnil and I am community member and land owner from south of Eugene. I am writing today to support HB 3372. Currently in Oregon it is legal to water a ½ acre garden or use 5,000 gal/day for a commercial purpose, but neither of those apply to growing food and farm products for sale. Why is it legal to use the water for personal use, but selling a single zucchini from my garden would mean I was breaking the law?

This personally impacts me because I support and attend the Spencer Creek Grange Farmer's Market. Several of the growers this past summer did not participate in the market. They did not have water rights and did not want to run afoul of the law. This adversely affected the market. Less farmers equals less customers, everyone loses. The farmer's market is a community gathering spot. I was no longer able to support these local farmer's and my food was not as fresh. Small farms in my area enable me the security of knowing I can secure food in an emergency.

We need to be realistic about what we prioritize for water use in our state. Allowing people to grow food or farm products for sale with a gallon restriction on ½ acre will not bankrupt the system, and farming is too much work for people to rush into production on such a small scale. Give communities back the ability to feed and provide for themselves, pass HB 3372.

Thank you,

Barbara Dumesnil  
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