

Submitter: Miriam Collett

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 Miriam and I live in Albany and work in Corvallis. 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. Local farmers use this water to raise crops to help feed the community through many ways, such as farmers markets, farm stands, wholesale to grocery stores, and wholesale to restaurants. I enjoy this farm to table type of dining at many fine establishments in the area, and it is more sustainable to raise crops locally rather than having them shipped in from overseas which is a big environmental impact.

This affects me personally because I work one block from the Corvallis farmers market. I see the community show up weekly to support local farmers who raise crops using this water. If all of a sudden these farmers no longer had access to water, our community would lose an amazing and special resource of food grown sustainably and locally. I love watching people walk by with flats of berries, garden starts, veggies, and fruit all dependent on water access.

I know water is a finite and valuable resource, but I cannot imagine farming on a micro scale would hurt the system more than the system can handle. I think we are all better off when eating local, healthy natural food, and I doubt hurting micro farmers is the intended consequence of this bill. Please protect farmers, they work hard for us. Please pass HB 3372.

Thank you,

Miriam