

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 Amanda Graves and I am a local resident from South Tillamook County. 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 my growing ability on my property is limited by trees and not getting enough sunlight throughout the day. My diet is plant based and since we live in a food desert local farms are closer to my home by 20 miles each way. So spending \$12 in gas just to go to the store means that I only go once a month and fresh vegetables will last that long. I have seen the rise of farmers markets and the fall of farms when I live in a farming community. Rural life involves relying on our community for support. We need to support our local farms so we have better options for a healthy lifestyle. Please keep in mind that our entire county is home to 27,000 people. So these farms are feeding a few hundred families.

I understand when there is a water shortage in certain areas. However, we live in temperate rainforest and have more water than we use. Our wells are recharged and have springs everywhere.

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,

Amanda Graves and Kai Wright
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