

Submitter: Kyenne Williams

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

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

Hello! I'm Kyenne Williams and while I write you from Portland, I grew up in rural Lincoln County where I grew up amid many small holding farms where people grew much of their own food as well as occasionally, food for sale, mostly in farmer's market settings. As a result, I'm writing today to support HB 3372. Currently in Oregon it is legal to water a half 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?

While I currently don't have a garden (nigh impossible in an urban apartment setting, this bill impacts me because it affects many people I know who both grow food for their own use, and folks who have half-acre gardens and sell their fresh produce locally. I know this affects many hyper-local gardeners and farmers locally because there has been a drop off in vendors at many local Portland markets - this decrease in vendors definitely affects access to local food. NOT desirable - being able to purchase local garden produce reduces the real-lived experience of buying local sustainable food.

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,

Kyenne Williams