

Submitter: Jonathan Todd Kourlas

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 Jonathan and I am a community member from Beaverton. 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 a neighbor selling me a single zucchini from their garden would mean they were breaking the law?

This personally impacts me because I love going to the farmers' markets and I'm hearing of farms afraid of selling at markets. I have heard of schools teaching children how to grow plants and how to operate a business and being shut down because they're selling their plants, but they're allowed to have acres of irrigated lawn. I want access to local 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,

Jonathan Todd Kourlas