

Submitter: Chris Todd Kourlas

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

To whom it may concern of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water:

My name is Chris 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. How is it right that a person can water lawn that has little, to no value (outside of aesthetically) but someone can't use the same or less water and grow beautiful fresh vegetables and sell to our neighbors or local markets?

This impacts me and our community because I love gardening, having access to fresh local foods and going to the farmers' markets. I'm hearing of farms afraid of selling at markets or the impact of water right changes have on their ability to produce food. I want access to local food, the ability to support local small scale producers of my food and keep our communities strong and self-sustaining.

Let's be real about how we restrict water use in Oregon, which I fully support as important and something that should be done...in the right ways. Allowing people to grow food or farm products for sale with a gallon restriction on ½ acre will not destroy our water resources or hurt communities. Let people provide for each other in small scales. This helps our communities, our health and our state. Pass HB 3372 and only restrict water use that makes sense.

Thank you,  
Chris