

Submitter: Garrett Key

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 Garrett Key and I am a beginning farmer/land steward in Clackamas 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, land access is one of the most prohibitive factors for beginning farmers. If we were able to utilize more of our residential space for community food production, and allow agricultural entrepreneurs to sell at markets earlier in their careers, I believe the long-term benefits would continue to unfold beyond the scope of a human lifetime. With many of our neighbors struggling to afford basic necessities, passing HB 3372 would allow more small farmers to begin to address the need for nourishment and responsible land stewardship in their communities, while also being able to sustain themselves.

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,

Garrett Key
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