

Submitter: Eliza Mason

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

My name is Eliza Mason and I am a small vegetable and fruit farmer from Monroe. 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:

- I am a small farmer and although I live in city limits, water is a huge deal. I often purchase from other local small farmers, who may or may not have water rights.
- Small rural communities are uplifted and enhanced by their local growers, most of whom are small and have no water rights. They need to be able to continue growing healthy fresh food legally and without fear. Monroe is one of many food deserts and does not have a grocery. Thus, the availability of local farms to produce good food is extremely important.
- data show little to no impact of these small growers' water use on the sustainability of the water supply. The vast majority of pollution, run off, and wastefulness results from large scale operations.

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,

Eliza Mason  
Lilliputopia Farm  
Monroe, OR