

Submitter: Erin Armitage

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

My name is Erin and I am a community member from McMinnville. 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: [insert your experience here, consider the following questions]\*\*\*Please note that submitting written testimony makes your words part of the legal public record and anything you write about your farm or water use could be used by state agencies.

I've noticed a decrease in the number of small family farmers as vendors in our farmer's market, which impacts the variety and quantity of fresh produce available to the community as well as the economic activity. We even had a well known farm close recently, which was very sad to see. We need these farms around to be able to produce healthy, seasonal food for the community that doesn't have to travel across the country or in from another country in order to create more sustainable food systems.

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,

Erin Armitage  
McMinnville, OR