

Submitter: Lynn Barton

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

My name is Lynn Barton and I am a small farmer in rural Jackson county. 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?

In my case I am on EFU land and this isn't a personal issue, but I am passionate about supporting small farms and local agriculture. People generally need to start small; they can't buy a big property and start farming. Allowing people to grow some food and use the water for food rather than some other commercial purpose seems so logical and helpful to getting more local food grown.

I actually already wrote my senator, Jeff Golden, about this before the session even started. He didn't think there would be much support for this. I truly hope that people's minds will change once they have a chance to think about it. It just makes sense.

Sincerely,  
Lynn Barton