

Submitter: Makaylee Sirr

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

My name is Makaylee Sirr, and I am a farmer and rancher in Sherwood, Oregon. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3372.

Under current Oregon law, it is legal to use a domestic well to irrigate up to ½ acre for personal use, or to use up to 5,000 gallons per day for certain commercial purposes. However, these allowances do not apply to growing food or farm products for sale. That means the moment I sell a single zucchini, I am technically breaking the law—even though I could use the same water for ornamental landscaping or a personal lawn without issue.

This personally impacts me because I am a new, small-scale farmer working hard to build a regenerative and community-centered operation. I have limited financial resources and need every possible opportunity to generate income to keep my farm going. The current restrictions prevent me from expanding into small-scale produce sales, which would otherwise be a meaningful and responsible way to support my business and serve my community.

My farm is committed to regenerative practices that protect soil health, reduce waste, and provide access to local, nutrient-dense food. I am not using excessive amounts of water, and there is no negative impact on surrounding water users. If I were allowed to irrigate and sell from just a ½ acre, I could provide enough vegetables to feed 10–15 local families through a farm stand or CSA model. But instead, that opportunity is cut off before it can even begin.

The current law creates a confusing and unfair double standard—one where watering a lawn or flowerbed is allowed, but growing and selling food from the same land and water source is not. That doesn't reflect the kind of food system or water policy our communities need.

We need to be realistic about what we prioritize for water use in this state. Allowing farmers to grow food or farm products for sale on up to ½ acre with a reasonable gallon restriction will not strain the system—but it will open doors for small-scale producers like me who are trying to feed their neighbors and do the right thing.

HB 3372 is a step toward empowering small farms, strengthening local food security, and supporting people who simply want to grow and share real food with their communities. Please support this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Makaylee Sirr
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