

Submitter: David Booth

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 David Booth. Rickreall has been my home for 17 years. I am now retired and do not run any farm business, but I do have a private well and plenty of room for gardening. 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?

Our capitalistic society seems to be forcing every action a private person takes to be measured only in terms of profit/loss balance statements. Today's bill is just another example of that same general problem. The only reason something is disallowed is because a transaction happened that involved a movement of dollars. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is not defined by a profit/loss balance sheet. Let's stop pretending that real people's needs don't matter.

Trust is not a commodity. It grows organically between people who are transparent and well informed. Being well informed about where one's food comes from and how it was produced is a fundamental right of a natural person. Buying produce from a natural person like me, living a lifestyle like me, who expresses and supports the same kinds of values as I support, is an easy recipe to grow trust. Any lawmakers not acting in full support of these obvious basic rights, community values, and common sense of neighbourly sharing and informed consent would certainly end up on the wrong side of history.