

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 Theresa Webster-Henry and I am a community member from Sweet Home, OR. 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? The current law makes no practical sense.

This personally impacts me because: I value local food security. With the recent increase in egg prices and drastic decrease in availability it is easy to see how food insecure we are when we depend on a few big entities to provide for our needs. I love to buy local produce. It's fresher, healthier and it supports our local economy. This archaic law preventing water use for commercial vegetable production needs to end now! Why are we supporting golf courses and industry to have access to water while preventing its use for our basic survival needs?

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,

Theresa Webster-Henry

Sweet Home, OR 97386