

Submitter: Gabrielle Roesch-McNally

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 Gabrielle Roesch-McNally and I am a COMMUNITY MEMBER from Albany, 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? I personally have a homestead on my 1/3 of an acre home garden. I have wanted to explore business opportunities on my lot and feel this legislation would support those ambitions personally, as well as supporting local small scale farmers. As a community member, I am deeply interested in supporting local farmers and I know they are struggling to make their operations work in growing drought/high-heat events. Having local food in my region supports local food security and keeps land in farming, a critical public good for the state of Oregon.

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,

Gabrielle Roesch-McNally
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