

Submitter: Laila Lienesch

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

Co-chairs Helm and Owens, my name is Laila Lienesch and I am an Oregon citizen from Corvallis. I am writing in support of HB 3372. Currently in Oregon it's legal to water a 1/2 acre personal garden or to use 5,000 gallons/day for commercial purposes. However, neither of these apply to growing food and farm products for sale. Why is it that someone can use water for personal use such as watering their lawn, but a neighbor selling me a single tomato or head of lettuce from their garden means they are breaking the law? It's nonsense. This personally impacts me as I enjoy going to the farmer's markets in and around Corvallis and I'm hearing of family farmers that are afraid to sell at the markets. In a time when food prices are going up and every week another food recall hits the news, I want to have access to locally grown products. We need to be realistic about what we prioritize for water use in our state. Having come from New Mexico I understand the need to conserve water. I do not understand why we allow acres of lawn to be irrigated and not allow people to grow food and/or farm products for sale on a 1/2 acre. This use type will not bankrupt the system, and farming is too much work for people to rush into production on such a small scale. Please give communities back the ability to feed and provide for themselves. Please pass HB 3372. Thank you.