

Submitter: Tori Evans

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

My name is Tori Evans and I am a community member from Tillamook, 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 vegetable from my garden would mean I was breaking the law?

This personally impacts me because: it has halted production on two local farms in our area that were providing the community with CSAs each summer. Now it has become much harder to source local produce. I would like to be able to support and strengthen local food systems. This is integral to creating stable communities. We shouldn't have to rely on produce shipped in from other countries or states. We have farmers that are set up and ready to provide food to their communities, but the water rights issue has stopped them.

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, please pass HB 3372.

Thank you,

Tori Evans
22495 Highway 101 S.
Cloverdale, OR 97112