

My name is Gary May and I am a rancher from Amity. 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 an ear of corn from my garden would mean I was breaking the law?

This personally impacts me because: My land will only support a small herd of cattle. I have wanted to use a small piece for my property to grow vegetables to sell in my community. But I have known that I could not do that legally without a water right. Passage of HB3372I would be a game changer for me. Passage of HB 3372I would help me towards making my small farm profitable.

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,

Gary May  
Amity, Oregon