

Submitter: Sam Mize

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 Sam Mize and I am a community member from Eugene. 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?

This personally impacts me because I would like to provide healthy local food to my neighbors in a sustainable way. We need to be building more local community reliance. I also want to support people in my community. I want access to food grown nextdoor, not states away. There has been a large drop in my neighbors sharing their goods. This leads to wasted food, energy, and creating more distance and isolation in our communities. Food brings people together. I would much rather see restrictions on other commercial uses of water. Food is a necessity. That can't be said about many things.

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,

Sam Mize
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