

Submitter: Kerri Cox
On Behalf Of: self
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:

I am writing to ask that you allow reasonable amounts of water use from domestic wells on 1/2 acre (micro) commercial food production farms.

I know that many of our most well-respected large-scale farmers got their start on a large urban lot. The opportunity to try out a career in farming would become more geographically and financially accessible, with the passage of this bill. Most small farmers have an 'off farm' job and being able to farm in their own backyard or down the street, makes this juggling easier. Additionally, using your own lot, or barter/leasing a neighbor's large lot, would substantially lower the cost and the risk of starting an enterprise. The increase in: beauty, community safety, and health benefits when a vacant urban lot is turned into a small farm, are well documented. We are experiencing more severe storms, wildfires, heat, and potentially the 'big one'; so having more buffers/green spaces, and at least some food production distributed throughout our communities, would increase resiliency.

Respectfully,
Kerri