

Submitter: Clarissa Page
On Behalf Of: myself
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

Hello,

My name is Clarissa and I am a small organic farmer from Applegate. 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 tomatoes from my garden would mean I was breaking the law?

This personally impacts me because we live rurally and many, many neighbors would appreciate being able to buy food locally, as opposed to having to drive 45 minutes to 1 hour to town to access a Farmer's Market. Jackson County requires that I sell some product, in order to maintain my tax break on EFU land, yet the State of Oregon says this would be illegal.

We need to be realistic about how 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. Let's please give small rural communities back the ability to feed and provide for themselves. I encourage you to please pass HB 3372.

Thank you,
Clarissa Page