

Submitter: Markael Luterra

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

My name is Markael Luterra, and I live on a half acre in Corvallis, where I also work for a nonprofit supporting local food systems.

I grow vegetables and grains on approximately 3000 square feet of our property, which is served by a private well. Under current water law it is illegal for me to sell anything that I grow, although there is no restriction on the amount of water I am allowed to use to keep the lawn green. This does not make any sense to me. I would encourage the law to shift in such a way that promotes food-growing on small rural properties for both personal use and community benefit, while limiting the total amount of groundwater that can be withdrawn where aquifer depletion is a concern. This change is effectively what HB 3372 implements, and I strongly support it on behalf of myself and especially on behalf of micro-farms that are generating income and growing high-value, labor-intensive produce on small, residential parcels.