



April 4, 2025

Co-chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water:

As Executive Director of the High Desert Food and Farm Alliance, I am writing in support of 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.

Farming is a business that yields products that sustain life, and is in and of itself a way of life. HDEFA strives for our Agricultural Support Program to meet the holistic needs of our Central Oregon region's resilient farmers and ranchers and to ensure our community has access to fresh, nutritious, locally produced food.

It is difficult to farm in Central Oregon. Our region is home to 264,000 people and is nearly the geographic size of New Hampshire. We are located on a high desert plateau with irrigated water for agriculture available from April–October and the threat of frost any day of the year. The tri-county region is located in the rain shadow east of the Cascade Mountains with a high desert climate, distinct from the valley population centers of the state. Central Oregon's main agricultural economy is commercial farming with a growing number of small-mid sized producers serving the local food system. Regionally we estimate 44 crops and 8 types of livestock, with the main products identified as: tomatoes, carrots, beets, peppers, cattle and swine.

Yet, a healthy and vibrant food and farm system is integral to our region's sustainability and the heart of High Desert Food and Farm Alliance's mission. We support all efforts that will increase farmers' viability through increased sales of their produce.

Please support the farmers in our state. Please support and pass HB3372.

Thank you,

Sharon Maier-Kennelly  
Executive Director  
[sharon@hdffa.org](mailto:sharon@hdffa.org)