

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 John Grimme, and I am a small farm owner 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.

We have a garden less than a half acre in size, and we use a drip irrigation system and heavy mulching to minimize the amount of water used in it. Even so, we are able to produce more than we use in our home, both in daily harvesting and in preservation. This means that we are able to give produce (nutritious food) to our friends and neighbors. Over and above this, we have been able to donate to food banks to help feed struggling Oregonians. But it would be nice to be able to have a farm stand in addition to allow us to mitigate and recoup costs associated with this.

Please allow people like us to grow food or farm products for sale with a gallon restriction on ½ acre. This is extremely small scale, but would have a positive impact on the community. It will not bankrupt the system. Please give communities back the ability to feed and provide for themselves. Please pass HB 3372.

Thank you,

John Grimme
Eugene, OR