

Submitter: Bala Krishnamoorthy

On Behalf Of:

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:

My name is Bala Krishnamoorthy and I am a community member living in the Cedar Mill area of Portland. I am writing today to support HB 3372. Currently in Oregon it is legal to water a 1/2 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 a single zucchini from my garden would mean I was breaking the law?

This personally impacts me because I buy a lot of my produce from local small farmers. In fact, I get all my produce in this manner during the months of May-October. This rule will drastically limit the ability of such small farmers to grow the highest quality produce that the citizens of Portland and Oregon appreciate the most. It will be a big win for big Ag, since this will put most small farmers out of business.

We need to be realistic about what we prioritize for water use in our state. Allowing people to grow food or farm products for sale with a gallon restriction on 0.5 acre will not bankrupt the system, and farming is too much work for people to rush into production on such a small scale. Give communities back the ability to feed and provide for themselves, please pass HB 3372.

Thank you,

Bala Krishnamoorthy
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