

Submitter: Jeanne Becker

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

I own land in Clackamas County and have always had a large vegetable garden. Anyone who grows seasonal vegetables knows how easy it is to have excess produce which usually gets shared with friends and family. I've also been a volunteer at our local farmers market since 2009. I see the SNAP lines every week, people—neighbors—with food insecurity. Allowing folks to actually sell their excess could truly help make a dent in the hunger around us. Supply and demand, basic economics. The more there is available, the less it costs. A few years back at OSU's small farm school I was at a lecture by a Canadian farmer who supplied two farmers markets with his small 1/2 acre garden intensively cultivated. Young farmers struggle to find usable land which is often out of reach financially. Allowing commercial farming on a smaller plot would give them a great entry point into the local agriculture industry. We need more young farmers. This bill supports not only them but could also build a stronger, broader base for local food sources, which is more important now than ever before.