

Submitter: Nathan Abercrombie

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 Nathan Abercrombie and I am a land owner in 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. 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 we have a community of backyard farmers that bring their food to farmers markets, and it is a wonderful community building experience. Last year, this community has been struggling. Two years ago, during the growing months, I could look down at my dinner plate and marvel at how almost all of it came from within a couple miles of my house. Now, my food comes from many miles away and I don't know the farmer or their land. My community is scared and frustrated. We need to allow these small local farms to exist, as they are a pride and joy of our community.

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 ½ 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, pass HB 3372.

Thank you,

Nathan Abercrombie
85129 Florence Rd
Eugene OR 97405