

Submitter: Tana Cahill

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

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

I am Portland resident Tana Cahill, 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. We need to correct this, so that selling produce from small farms or gardens is supported and encouraged, not prohibited!

This is important to me because I am adamant about access to organics, and almost by definition, organic and regenerative endeavors are small-scale operations. These farming methods produce much healthier food for consumers, and protect and enhance the soil (in contrast to huge agri-business practices which poison and deplete the land, and consumers). I try to "buy local" as much as possible, which is also better for our environment (why burn fossil fuels to import crops from around the world, which can be grown locally?), and I want my government to do everything possible to SUPPORT and ENCOURAGE local, small-scale agriculture. The laws have been helping big ag force out family farms for too long. We need to reverse that awful trend.

Local food production should be one of our highest priorities with regard to water usage, and allowing people to grow food or farm products for sale with a gallon restriction on ½ acre will not bankrupt the system. Please make this sensible change, for the benefit of Oregonians, and our environment. Help give communities back the ability to feed and provide for themselves, by passing HB 3372.

Thank you,

Tana Cahill
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