

Submitter: Stephanie Celin

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

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 Stephanie Celin, and I am the communications manager at Portland Farmers Market, which operates five farm and food marketplaces where dozens of local small farmers sell their produce.

I am writing to express my support for HB 3372. In Oregon, it is legal to water a half-acre garden or use up to 5,000 gallons daily for commercial purposes. These allowances do not apply to the growing of fresh produce and farm product for sale. This inconsistency in water use regulations is a critical issue that must be addressed for the benefit of our local farmers.

We need to be realistic about our water use priorities in the state. Permitting local farmers to grow food or farm products for sale with a water restriction of just one gallon per half-acre will not break our water system. Farming is a demanding endeavor, and expecting individuals to begin production on such a limited scale is unrealistic.

Local food production is not merely a convenience; it is vital to the health and sustainability of our community. Farming requires dedication and hard work, and we should empower communities to feed and sustain themselves by passing HB 3372.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Celin