

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 Aparna Chidambaram and I am a resident of Hillsboro.

I am 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 commercial purpose, but neither of those apply to growing food and farm products for sale. However, there is an inconsistency when it comes to small-scale food production. Why is it permissible to use water for personal gardens, but when a neighbor sells a single zucchini, they risk breaking the law?

I support HB 3372 because I am an enthusiastic shopper at the local farmers markets. My family and I get to eat fresh, healthy, locally grown organic fruits and vegetables and we get to support local farms.

More importantly for me, small farmers grow specialty vegetables and herbs that are outside the typical range of choices in grocery chains. Buying such local produce has the additional benefit of minimizing environmental impact by avoiding long-distance transportation and refrigeration.

I truly feel blessed to have easy access to fresh, locally grown produce.

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. Farming is hard work for people to rush into production on such a small scale.

Please pass HB 3372 and give communities back the ability to feed and provide for themselves.

Thank you,

Aparna Chidambaram

Hillsboro, OR