

Submitter: Jackie Robertson

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

My name is Jackie Robertson and I am a neighbor and would-be customer to a local small farm 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 or even to irrigate the landscape on my property, but neither of those apply to growing food and farm products for sale on land zoned the same and located very close to mine. Why is it legal to use the water for personal use, but selling produce from a garden that otherwise complies with the water restrictions against the law?

I respect the water rights systems and the need to protect our vibrant culture of professional farmers who supply our grocers and weekly farmers markets. But not every rural resident can drive into town on a regular basis for fresh produce and the occasional local residential garden with a farm stand fills a critical niche in building community and providing quality food. Not every piece of rural land is suited to farming, and certainly not every rural landowner will want to do this hard work of growing food. So I don't fear that water use will suddenly spike from allowing the sale of produce from what is already a legally managed water use restriction for the land. As long as the farmer complies with the 1/2 acre limit and 5000 gal/day limit, I would very much like to support their ability to provide food to their community.

Please restore common sense to this water management regulation and pass HB 3372.

Jackie Robertson
28500 Sutherlin Lane
Eugene, OR 97405