

Submitter: Sue Nackoney

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 Sue Nackoney and I am the owner of a certified organic farm in Boring, Oregon. 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 I know how hard it can be to start a small farm. It is not affordable for most of us to start a farm on agricultural land that has water rights. Yet small farms can produce a lot of healthy food and feed communities. Access to well water can be an answer for many small farms that would find other options, like municipal water for irrigation, to be unaffordable.

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,

Sue Nackoney
Gentle Rain Farm
Boring, Oregon