

Submitter: Nicole Brun-Cottan  
On Behalf Of: Friend of Family Farmers  
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural  
Resources, and Water  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

My name is Nicole Brun-Cottan and I am a resident of Portland. I am writing today to support HB 3372. I have long believed that policy should support sustainable agriculture and the local food supply chain. This seems more important now than ever.

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 at a fruit stand at the end of the driveway would mean breaking the law. In theory, I could empty and refill a swimming pool repeatedly and be within my rights, but if I use that same water to grow food that nourishes my community, and sell it to help support my family, that is against the law.

I consider myself a conservationist - and I respect the need to maintain a mindful use of our groundwater supplies. However, the law as it stands doesn't make sense. It disproportionately affects small farmers, who use tend to use less water, but upon whom the impact of enforcement is proportionally larger. Please pass this common sense piece of legislation that will help incentivize small local farming and maintain the ability of rural farmers to stay on their land.