

Submitter: Vera Moore

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 Vera Moore and I am a community member from Springfield. 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 my husband and I regularly buy locally grown food at local farmstands. We also buy local produce from small grocery shops such as The Kiva and Capella, both in Eugene. We are elderly and find having plenty of fresh vegetables and fruit is very good for our health, and also it is very good for the local economy. Rather than buying food from large corporations where our money would go out-of-state, our money can stay here and benefit our community. It may cost a bit more than shopping at Walmart, Safeway, etc., but we save money in other ways to make up for it. We are retired on a limited income so need to do this, and any inconvenience is more than made up for by being able to buy fresh local produce that helps us and our community. We love our local farms and want to support them however we can. Thank you for supporting this bill.

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,

Vera M. Moore
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