

Submitter: Sasha Langesfeld

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

My name is Sasha Langesfeld and I am a community member from Oregon City. I am writing today to support HB 3372.

I think this small rewording of the domestic well water exempt uses would have a positive impact on the community by increasing the resilience of local food systems and rural economies. In this day and age where we are seeing an increase in global food supply shortages and supply chain issues, we should be doing everything we can to strengthen local food production. Why penalize small backyard gardeners/farmers for water use that is creating a positive impact on their communities, when you could be going after the bigger issues, like Oregon's outdated water rights laws that incentivize landowners and farmers to waste water in order to maintain their water rights and therefore property value. 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? The exemption already exists, and it's a small change that can be made with this bill that takes a step in the right direction for creating stronger local food systems.

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,
Sasha Langesfeld