

Submitter: Lacey Harworth

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

My name is Lacey Harworth and I am an experienced diversified vegetable farmer located in Portland. 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 as I have developed my skills as a grower, I am aware of how impactful small plots of land can be. So much diversity and food can be cultivated on a half acre, and it is my belief that making this kind of lifestyle/business a possibility is a part of the great puzzle piece of solving our country's fall into massive monoculture farming and the seizing of prime fertile grounds. More farms means more food to the people, and more healing for the land and those who are able to share the fruits of their labor.

We need to be realistic about what we prioritize for water use in our state. We need as many small farms as possible to reduce our environmental impact and to also reduce the overreach of large agricultural operations. 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,

Lacey Harworth  
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