

Submitter: Divya Singh

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

Divya Singh, a community member from Cedarmill, 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. I don't understand why it is legal to use water for personal use such as watering lawns and swimming pools, but selling vegetables from small farms would mean breaking the law.

This measure personally impacts me because my family has been a long term client of a few small farms in Washington County.

Edible Stories Farm garden based in Helvetia is the only small farm that grows organically farmed vegetables, herbs, and fruits that families of Indian origin grew up with. By sharing their farming practices, writings, and meditations on owning and growing a farm, they have not only enriched the food, but also the lives of many families like mine. My family has seen first hand the years of hard work and tenacity it takes small farmers like Edible Stories to expand their work, and increase the growing season of fresh vegetables from 4-5 months for hobby gardeners like me to 8-10 months in Oregon's climate.

Amarro Farms and Nuts about Berries, also from Washington County who sell their produce at CedarMill Farmers Market, have increased my family's vegetable palate. All in all, these small farmers not only impact access to fresh food and health of our community, but with easy access to their farms and weekly presence season after season, increases connection of young families to where our food comes from.

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,
Divya Singh