

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 Jeffrey Dragoo and I am a COMMUNITY MEMBER from Eugene. 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 I support local farmers, local business, and especially local food production. I have witnessed my family run local farm have to cease sale/provision of seed to table salad mix and fresh produce for a large number of families/customers in the Pacific City region. Odonata Farm is a local farm built from the roots, managed with intent towards water efficiency and stewards to sustainable production of food for local residents. I know that without the local access to their produce, residents will have a larger negative impact on public resources and water resources having to source goods from non-local, larger, inefficient farms. Keeping the cycle of water and carbon local is crucial for sustaining available healthy, fresh food for the population and combatting the ever growing problem of climate change as it pertains to the importance of carbon sequestering and the positive impact local farmed goods bring by establishing a deeper connection for our youth and families with the food we eat.

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 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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,

Jeffrey Dragoo