

Submitter: Tyson Davies

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 Tyson Davies and I work in the agriculture economy in the Willamette Valley, OR. 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. This legal definition criminalizes micro-farming, farming 1/2 acre or less, and runs counter to the building of stronger local food and community ecosystems.

Micro-farms are predominantly break even endeavors, but are by and large more productive and sustainable when compared with industrial farming and the footprint, carbon, water, and social impacts, that come from growing and shipping food from thousands of miles away. Micro farms are a true labor of love, providing significant benefits to micro-farmers and their communities.

I work with many types of farmers, (blackberry, blueberry, hazelnut and produce across 5,000 acres), as well as grow my own food and flowers. As farmers, we are a deeply resource conscious group. We understand that our livelihood is directly connected to the environment, and our stewardship of natural resources is essential to building sustainable agricultural systems for current and future generations. This is especially true for water as we all experience changing weather and rainfall. The vast majority of farmers I work with are utilizing drip irrigation, flow meters, and daily irrigation monitoring, to make sure we are maximizing our “crop per drop”, and that water waste is mitigated at all costs. This is no different with micro-farms.

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,  
Tyson Davies  
Eugene, OR