

Submitter: Nalini Ganapati

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 Nalini Ganapati and I am a community member from 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 we get vegetables and greens from small farms, and they are vital to our needs. They, the small farms grow culturally specific vegetables and we share it in our community and it means a lot to us. As a consumer, we have seen a drop off in local farmers market vendors and it impacts the community ability to access locally grown food. There is a great need for it and demand. We support the local farmers and support HB3372.

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,
Nalini Ganapati
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