

Submitter: Ryan Christiance

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 Ryan Christiance and I am a community member of Eugene, 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. 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 my rights are being stripped away from me day by day, year by year, and I am fed up with bureaucrats making laws that reduce my rights and access to natural resources through legislation and policy designed and intended to benefit the corporate and highly organized MINORITY and not the majority. These laws are grossly overreaching in their impact on the Oregon Community at large, while paving legal president for large corporations to strip away our rights to something as simple as water. As has been pointed out, it is a very small majority that uses water to grow food and sell that little bit of food. Policing water usage amongst the community when the community uses so very little is misplaced and an abuse of authority.

I have seen a dramatic drop in the food available to us at local farmers markets and more and more people who used to sell food, are not. This is sad to see. In a world where everything is being gobbled up by corporations and conglomerates, what good is all of it if the common people cannot even grow food?! Who cares if they sell it. What ACTUAL impact is this use of water having on the whole of Oregon? How much water is actually being used? Is this really something for the good of the state? Or the good of private interests? Because it is absolutely not for the good of the people.

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,

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