

Submitter: Alexis Molinari  
On Behalf Of: Lane County Farmers Market  
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural  
Resources, and Water  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

#### Testimony in Support of HB 3372

My name is Alexis Molinari, and I am the Market Director at Lane County Farmers Market in Eugene, Oregon. The Lane County Farmers Market is proud to support HB 3372.

The mission of the Lane County Farmers Market is to preserve and strengthen the local farm and food economy by providing vibrant, inclusive public marketplaces for farmers, food artisans, and our community. We are committed to protecting and sharing Oregon's natural resources through local community food systems, understanding that these resources are interconnected.

While water is undeniably a critical natural resource, food is equally essential for human survival, and agriculture is a cornerstone of our state's economy. HB 3372 is vital to ensuring that food production is recognized as an essential use of Oregon's water resources, both of which must be prioritized and protected within our natural resource ecosystem.

Beyond water scarcity, we must also address the threat of food scarcity. Access to local food sources is more critical now than ever and the role of small farms and farmers markets is now paramount.

Across Oregon, many small towns, especially in rural areas lack access to fresh and affordable produce, creating what are often called "food deserts". Farmers Markets, Crop-shares, and Community Supportive Agriculture (CSAs) frequently serve as the only sources of fresh local food for dozens of miles. We should be empowering households to sell surplus produce within their communities, not restricting them. The current 70-year-old law unfairly restricts domestic well users and we urge you to rectify this by passing HB 3372.

Allowing individuals to sell excess produce and farm products from their homesteads

at farmers markets diversifies our fragile food system. The volume of fossil fuels required to transport food across the country is unsustainable. We should be encouraging the sale of surplus produce from small farms and gardens, not allowing it to go to waste.

Farmers Markets act as economic incubators, providing micro-farmers with direct connections to consumers and fostering a robust and vibrant network of food security. Allowing the sale of small-scale garden produce benefits individuals financially, increases access to fresh fruits and vegetables, and strengthens community partnerships. By removing the ability to share food from our own backyards, we place an unnecessary burden on an already vulnerable food system. We urge you to pass HB 3372, ensuring that future generations have robust food networks and continue to be committed to protecting and sharing Oregon's natural resources through local community food systems.

Thank you.

Alexis Molinari

Market Director, Lane County Farmers Market