

Submitter: kiko denzer

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 Kiko Denzer and I live in Philomath with various farmer neighbors. I am asking you to support HB 3372-5. As you know, Oregon law currently allows people to water a ½ acre garden or use 5,000 gal/day for a commercial purposes, but does not allow citizens to grow food and farm products for sale. Why would the law allow me to grow and eat my own zucchini, but not sell it to a hungry neighbor?

This personally impacts me because I have neighbors who do supply me with zucchinis, and much more. In addition, given the current economic climate, I want to be able to grow and share food from my own garden, to help feed my own community. Imagine if the victory gardeners of the 40s had been restricted by similar laws?

Humans feed each other. It is more than a right, it's a fact of life, it's the biological strategy that has allowed us to evolve as a species, it's a law of nature. To legislate against it is both irrational and unconscionable.

My local farmer's markets are essential centers around which the whole community revolves. Restricting citizens from growing food for each other would weaken the entire community. Encouraging small scale growing, however, will make entire communities much more resilient and healthy — physically, economically, morally, as well as spiritually.

HB 3372-5 will prioritize community health, without any negative impacts. Indeed, it is much more likely to improve our overall awareness of water conservation, as well as our ability to implement effective solutions.

Thank you,

Kiko Denzer, Philomath