

Submitter: William Miller
On Behalf Of: Our communities here in Oregon
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

I am writing today to support HB 3372.

Currently in Oregon it is legal to water a ½ acre garden for personal use or to use 5,000 gal/day for a commercial purpose, but neither of those apply to growing food and farm products for sale. This bill would legalize the sale of produce grown on that half acre.

It would not expand the area of irrigation allowed, nor would it increase the amount of water use allowed. However, it would give persons so inclined the opportunity to perform perhaps the most critical part of any community, the production and distribution of food, aka farming!

As the grandson and sibling of dry land wheat and cattle farmers I know what a critical resource water is here in Oregon. But in reality this bill is not an expansion of water use; it simply allows produce and farm products—grown with water as currently allowed—to be distributed through commercial activities.

Small farmers' markets are regular activity on any given day of the week throughout the growing season here in Oregon. They are places where people come to shop, often with some live music playing, with crafts for sale, prepared foods for sale and of course fresh produce for sale; a place for friends and neighbors to gather and meet. I would not hesitate to guess that there is not a single member of the legislature here in Oregon, who has not at some point walked through a farmers market on a sunny afternoon and purchased something for meal later in the day.

Let's give ALL our backyard farmers a choice by allowing them to water their small gardens not just for personal use, but for commercial use as well.

Thank you for reading, I know you will do the right thing.

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