

Submitter: Kyenne Williams

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

Dear Co-chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water:

I'm Kyenne Williams, and I'm submitting written testimony in support of HB 3372-5. While I am not a rancher, farmer or commercial farmer, I am an avid gardener. And I support those 'truck' farmers who feed me through farmer's markets. I'm making the time to write you because the legislation under discussion doesn't make sense. As several folks have put it "Why is it legal to use the water for personal use, but selling a single melon from my garden mean I was breaking the law?"

I give away strawberries, blueberries, and marionberries by the pint, and share my vegetable bounty throughout my community, wherever I have lived in Oregon. Portland has dozens of farmers markets, and over the past 5 years, I've seen a decrease in produce and participation by local (Multnomah County) vendors - and fewer vendors equals less food available to me, my older friends using SNAP, and a the availability of immediately local produce.

I completely agree that we need to be realistic about how and what we prioritize water for; we need to not just allow but encourage people to grow food or farm products for sale with a gallon restriction on half acre lots. This will not bankrupt the system, and farming is too much work for people to rush into production on such a small scale. The solution in this bill does not increase the overall water available for exempt use, it simply allows people to sell the food and farm products it is already legal to grow. Give communities back the ability to feed and provide for themselves, pass HB 3372-5.

Thank you,

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