

Submitter: Erin Wallat  
On Behalf Of: Erin Wallat  
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

My name is Erin Wallat and I am a farmer, grower and homesteader from Veneta. I am writing today to support HB 3372-5. Currently in Oregon it is legal to water a ½ acre garden or use 5,000 gal/day for a animal husbandry purposes, 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 tomato plant would mean I was breaking the law?

This personally impacts me because I am a small grower who wants to provide food and plants to my local community. Bringing in water from elsewhere is silly. It's expensive and a hassle. And as much as I want to use water catchment, it is expensive. I would be able to supply tens of thousands of plants to provide food and gardens to my community for a fraction of 5,000 gallons a day. Vegetable farms and nurseries have farm less run off than animal agriculture. And all that water would go right back into my water table. I would have the opportunity to provide thousands of pounds of food to my local community, all again with water that would go straight back to my water table.

Local small food growers, create community and solid, reliable strong systems for our 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. 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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