

Submitter: Elizabeth Santana

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 Elizabeth Santana and I am a community member, home gardener, and supporter of local farmers and agriculture. I live in Beaverton and previously from eastern Washington. 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 commercial purpose, 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 zucchini from my garden would mean I was breaking the law?

This personally impacts me because I firmly believe that small scale agriculture is the best way to produce healthy foods without unneeded pesticides and toxins, and that we should all be allowed to use water on our privately owned lands accordingly! Given the uncertainty in federal subsidies for food products, climate change, and increased populations using up valuable farm land, we should be doing everything we can to support locally sourced agriculture!

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 very much for your consideration!

Elizabeth Santana  
7569 SW Applegate Drive  
Beaverton, OR 97007