

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

As a member of the Board for the Spencer Creek Community Growers Market (SCCGM) in Eugene, Oregon, I am writing to you today to ask you to pass HB 3372-5. The 2024 market season (May – October) was a sad season for our market. Due to letters that many of our small farmers/backyard gardeners received from the Watermaster, they were restricted from selling their produce and thus did not vend at our market. The community-at-large was quite disappointed by the lack of produce and many long-time customers ceased to frequent our venue. I don't think I need to explain that a farmers' market cannot survive if not enough farmers are selling and, thus, not enough customers are shopping.

Now going into its 16<sup>th</sup> season, the SCCGM Board has determined that if it cannot bring back a suitable number of produce vendors, then this will also be its final season. Once a thriving dynamic market and the recipient of the "Best Small Farmers Market in Oregon" award, the Spencer Creek Community Growers Market will be forced to 'shutter its doors' and cease to exist, at a time when local food production has become more critical in making sure there can be food on the table.

The farmers/growers in our community are extremely well aware of the value of water and the need to conserve. They use water-saving methods that go beyond what would be required of them. It is unfortunate that the water abuses of a few have created such a situation for the many. Please, allow the small-scale farmers and gardeners who are already legally growing produce for their families to share their bounty with the rest of the community to keep food local and help sustain small-scale agriculture in the state of Oregon. Please, pass HB 3372-5.

Thank you for your time,

Andrea Turner, Ph.D.

Secretary and Interim Treasurer

Spencer Creek Community Growers Market Board

Eugene, OR