

Submitter: Glenn Dove

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

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?

After growing Organic vegetables commercially on a small leased farm with water rights, we searched for our own farm to purchase. Since we were searching for an affordable smaller acreage property, we were unable to find one in the state and forced to move out of state in order to keep farming on our own farm. Years later we are back in our beloved Oregon and still unable to find a property with water rights. So are now working in other jobs and not able to grow food for others for sale. We know how to grow a large amount of fruits and vegetables in a small intensive type of farming/ gardening. But now are left just growing for ourselves or giving away to our neighbors and friends. We own 2 acres and could easily grow enough food on the allowed 1/2 acre to supplement a large amount of our income.

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,