

Submitter: Tassia Fahsbender  
On Behalf Of: South Valley Farmers Market  
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 Tassia Fahsbender. As a farmers market manager who is working to support small scale farmers and producers, and a member of the community of Cottage Grove who is invested in increasing food access for all, I am writing in support of HB 3372-5.

South Valley Farmers Market is composed of many small scale farmers and food producers. Located in a Low Income, Low Access Tract, our market is an important source of fresh nutritious food for our rural community. Our farmers accept market currency for eight different food equity programs, including SNAP, Double Up Food Bucks, and Farm Direct Nutrition/WIC checks. As a result of these food equity programs, the rising cost of groceries, and growing awareness of the importance of supporting our local food system, we have seen a 302% increase in customer attendance over the last two years.

The current water use restrictions on small scale farms and commercial gardens have directly impacted our market's ability to meet the increase in demand for local produce. Small scale farmers who have worked to feed their communities for many years were suddenly informed that they were out of compliance with OWRD after the passage of HB 2929 in 2023. As a result, our market lost multiple long term vendors in 2024, and our ability to provide a sufficient supply of fresh produce for our community has been limited.

Small scale farmers and market gardeners are vital to the sustainability of rural food systems. As we continue to encounter supply chain disruptions, shortages, and rising costs, local small scale growers are rising to meet the need for fresh, local, affordable food. These small scale commercial producers account for less than 1% of ground water use in Oregon according to OWRD.

I urge you to pass HB 3372-5 and give small scale growers the ability to feed their communities and support their families. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tassia Fahsbender

South Valley Farmers Market  
Cottage Grove, Oregon