

Submitter: Carly Schanback

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

My name is Carly Schanback and I am a Community Member from Cottage Grove, Oregon. 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 my livelihood is connected to the land. I want the ability to support myself, my family and fellow community members by engaging in a reciprocal relationship with my homestead, garden and community market. I also want to have access to fresh, local produce that my fellow community members grow in their garden. It is a human right to live in harmony with the environment-human/plant/animal community, and sustainable gardening/agroforestry allows a reciprocation between land steward, the land and those who live on it. We must be able to come together and support one another if we are going to be successful as a species, which includes feeding one another. Not everyone has access to acreage- if my neighbor has the ability to grow food and I have the ability to pay or trade for such food, it strengthens our community resilience and lowers our reliance on outside sources. We will be stronger as a community, and as individuals, if we have the right and ability to engage in small scale gardening to feed our family and friends.

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,

With gratitude,

Carly Schanback