

Submitter: Kylie Steele
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire:

My name is Kylie Steele and I am a Farmer and Community Members from Milwaukie, OR. I am writing today to support HB 3372 A. Currently in Oregon, it is legal to water a ½ acre garden or use 5,000 gal/day for a commercial purpose using a domestic well, 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 although I have an urban farm on city water many of my farmer friends and colleagues cannot sell produce from the land they grow on due to this restrictive bill. It also impacts the purchase of property that would otherwise be a great fit for farm land but is restrictive due to this archaic law. Feeding our neighbors is the only way we will be able to sustain ourselves in the coming years facing the climate crisis and making it legal (and easier) for farmers to farm local land is one way to make this reality possible.

We need to be thoughtful about what we prioritize for water use in our state. This bill is a simple, common-sense solution that would allow people to sell the food and farm products that are already legal to grow, while adding reasonable limitations to the amount of water that can be used.

Give communities back the ability to feed and provide for themselves, and pass HB 3372 A!

Thank you,

Kylie Steele