

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

My name is Zeph Mullins and I am a farmer from Siletz, OR. I am writing today to support HB 3372 A. Currently in Oregon, it is legal to water a 1/2 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?

Having access to food for small communities includes the use of many small gardens and small farms especially in rural area. Laws that limit access to water are already an issue when there is broad-scale irrigation for hay crops and the exportation of those crops to market but no process for me and my community to have a local market of food security due to these laws. Removing the restrictions of food production for human consumption will allow people to use their own determination in what food security looks like for them and their families. Smaller communities that do not rely on municipal water need to be able to produce and/or sell their own produce.

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,

-Zeph Mullins

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