

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

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

My name is Jefferson Parson and I am a member of the Bellview Grange in Ashland, 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 I know well the struggles of small farmers. We need to encourage and support them! I see fewer farmers at the farmers' market – which means less produce is available, and this does not begin to solve the problem that 85% of southern Oregon's Rogue Valley food comes from outside. We need to prepare for food scarcity due to any number of possible disastrous situations.

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,

Jefferson Parson

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