

# Regarding HB 3372: In Support

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 Jessica Cuadra, and I am writing to support HB 3372 to allow 1/2 acre of irrigation for commercial purposes from domestic exempt wells. This would address important food equity issues in our state. I live within the city limits of Eugene, so there is nothing preventing me from irrigating at will for commercial production. It is grossly unfair that my neighbors across the street, outside city limits, would be prohibited from selling me excess tomatoes or squash from their home gardens. The idea that I can grow a commercial garden if I wish, but my neighbors would face legal action for selling me an extra carrot is absurd and inequitable. Such de minimis transactions cannot possibly have a measurable negative impact on water availability in our state, as we know that residential well use is a tiny fraction of water use in Oregon. Certainly, no sane person is going to suddenly attempt a major commercial growing enterprise on 1/2 acre of residential property! Allowing this minor commercial use would only serve to reduce regulatory enforcement costs, improve local food access, and perhaps have a small positive economic impact on rural residents.

I have previously lived in small remote communities, and being able to buy a few fresh vegetables from nearby gardeners helped me be able to access and afford produce when I was a busy single parent. Small, hyperlocal grower's markets were a vital way for me to get produce for my kids. Prohibiting this kind of friendly exchange is no solution to our water challenges, but it does stifle budding growers.

In conclusion, I would like to introduce you to a kid I know from the farmer's market. (I'll call him "Joe"). Joe is maybe 9 years old, and likes to shop for plants to grow. He told me he is interested in growing a few strawberry plants so he can sell strawberries for spending money. Joe will grow, at most, a dozen plants and sell an occasional basket of berries. But wait! Is Joe going to be breaking the law? It seems that the answer is up to you. I'm sure many 4-H kids are waiting to find out.

Please pass HB 3372.

Thank you for your consideration,

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