

Submitter: Kristy Athens

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

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 Kristy Athen and I run a small grocery-delivery service that works exclusively with small farms from Enterprise. I am writing today to support HB 3372. 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.

This personally impacts me because my business supports small farms across the region. Acquiring a parcel of land for agriculture is nearly impossible due to the popularity of this region for large ranches and dream homes. Amending this law would rectify the all-or-nothing reality of farming in NE Oregon, and enable dozens of micro-farmers to both make money and feed their neighbors.

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

Thank you,  
Kristy Athens  
Good Groceries LLC  
Enterprise, Oregon