

Submitter: Alison Dennis  
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 Alison Dennis, and I am a resident of Pacific City, Oregon. I am writing today to express my strong support for HB 3372.

Last summer, I was shocked when one of the only farm stands at my local farmers market had to suspend operations due to this legal technicality. In a rural community like ours, access to fresh, locally grown food is not just a preference—it's a necessity. Our farmers work tirelessly to provide us with high-quality, homegrown produce, yet under current laws, their ability to use water for small-scale commercial growing is unfairly restricted.

It makes no sense that it is legal to water a ½-acre personal garden or use up to 5,000 gallons of water per day for other commercial purposes, but if a farmer tries to sell a single zucchini from that same plot, they are suddenly in violation of the law. This directly impacts small farmers, limits local food availability, and threatens the sustainability of farmers markets like ours.

I have personally seen the effects of this outdated restriction. Fewer vendors at our farmers market mean fewer options for my family and my neighbors. It weakens our local food system, making us more reliant on outside sources and reducing the resilience of our community. Allowing small-scale farmers to irrigate up to ½ acre with reasonable water restrictions would strengthen local agriculture and ensure that communities like Pacific City can continue to support and sustain themselves.

We need to be realistic about our water priorities. Small farmers are not the ones draining our water resources—they are the ones working hard to feed us. Passing HB 3372 is a commonsense solution that supports farmers, strengthens local food systems, and ensures that rural communities like mine can thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Alison Dennis  
Pacific City, Oregon