

Submitter: christina burress

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 Christina Burress and I am a community member from Tillamook. 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. 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 want to support local small farmers who grow and sell fresh vegetables and fruits for people in our small community. Having access to fresh food is paramount to our health and longevity, community involvement, and goals for a sustainable Earth.

It is clear when I visit local farmers' markets that very few people have the legal ok to sell / share their vegetables and fruits. Small towns like Tillamook deserve as many choices as the big cities on where we can buy fresh vegetables and fruits. Relying on big chains like Fred Meyers and Safeway is abysmmal.

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,

Christina Burress
Tillamook, OR