

Submitter: Aanandhi Ganesh

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:

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 as much water as you want for personal use, but when selling a single vegetable from your garden, you would be breaking the law?

As a high schooler, I had the opportunity to help at a small farm's stall in a local farmer's market. Seeing all the fresh produce and hearing from the farmers firsthand really made me better understand all the work that goes into growing fresh, healthy produce sustainably. The diversity in produce availability is incredibly important to people of different cultural backgrounds and food preferences. It was heartening to see members of the community come and buy the produce, many of whom show up regularly. Small farms strive hard to grow the best produce and show up every week to these markets. They play a crucial part in maintaining the health of our community members and deserve our full support. Give communities back the ability to feed and provide for themselves, pass HB 3372.

Thank you for your consideration,

Aanandhi Ganesh