

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 Corinne Roberts and I am local food consumer from Lebanon. 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 not for growing food to be sold locally?

This personally impacts me because I believe that with agricultural offerings comprised of small mom and pop locally sourced food in addition to large and small commercial commodity production allows regional variety provided by large and small land owners and/or farmers. In my community there are many 100+ acre grass hay fields surrounded by smaller farms – many as small as five acres, some as small as one acre. All community members should have access to the ability to grow, sell, and purchase at all levels, and that means small amounts of water to do so at the micro level shouldn't be what instills fear in the hearts of others.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Corinne Dutta-Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Corinne Roberts
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