

Submitter: Julian Ansell

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 Julian Ansell and I am writing to you as a fellow community member, a neighbor and as a farmer. I am writing today to support HB 3372-5. 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 we have a passion for growing food and feeding our community, and that is currently illegal (unless we just give everything away!) We enjoyed having a stand at the Pacific City market- it was a great way to connect with our community and share what we were growing. Now this is impossible. We employ protected growing practices (high tunnel) and use water conservation practices (drip line/water capture/intentional land use/dry farming) to minimize our usage and maximize the efficiency and efficacy of the water we do use. We are out of business if we cannot use water to grow food. It is quite literally that simple. Our productive farm now lies fallow until we see resolution on this issue.

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. The solution in this bill does not increase the overall water available for exempt use, it simply allows people to sell the food and farm products it is already legal to grow. Give communities back the ability to feed and provide for themselves, pass HB 3372-5.

Thank you,
Julian Ansell
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