

Kelly Maria

From: Terry Anderson <terryander@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2013 5:41 PM
To: Kelly Maria
Subject: HB 2319 hearing 3/26

To: Honorable Members, House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Re: HB 2319

As an Oregonian who eats food, I appreciate the Committee's efforts to look into the serious problems posed by the introduction of poorly-tested new biotechnologies. Greed and scientific hubris have led humanity astray before; you have the authority to slow down and reverse looming damages to our food system.

I am encouraged that HB 2319 recognizes that the use of genetically engineered organisms in agriculture is not a "farming practice." (In fact it is an experiment in which we are all the lab rats). If the use of such technologies is to be allowed at all, it's appropriate for farmers to call on the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture to investigate and impose sanctions when contamination from biotech organisms occurs on neighboring farm properties. The measure does not make it clear that economic damages incurred by farmers as a result of contamination should be recoverable from the responsible parties, including the expenses associated with proving the damages. This should be addressed. Also, given the irreversible nature of the damage caused by the escape of engineered genes into traditional, non-engineered food and feed crops, the legislation should make it more clear that the Department must act to stop contamination forcefully and immediately.

I hope the Committee will work to improve, and then pass, HB 2319.

Sincerely,

Terry Anderson
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