

Kelly Maria

From: Terry Anderson <terryander@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2013 5:43 PM
To: Kelly Maria
Subject: HB 2715 hearing 3/26

To: Honorable Members, House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Re: HB 2715

HB 2715 seems to be a well-intentioned attempt to prevent potential damage from indiscriminate spread of bio-engineered genetic material, recognizing county-level authority to regulate on this issue. One reason this is especially important is the fact that many Oregon counties have ideal conditions for the production of vegetable seed, serving as a critical source for premium seeds for the US and much of the world. If seed-producing areas can't be protected from contamination by genetically engineered crop varieties, those areas will lose their ability to serve their markets, and the health and diversity of our food supply will be damaged beyond repair.

HB 2715 takes some steps to possibly reduce the likelihood of genetic contamination, but the bill is seriously weakened by sections 4 and 5. By "grandfathering in" existing GMO plantings, section 4 leaves intact the damage which has already occurred. Allowing a reasonable time period to phase out GMO plantings within a control area--as Jackson County's proposed measure 15-119 already does--would be a better approach. Section 5, which prohibits control areas for biopharmaceutical crops and genetically engineered timber, should be removed from the bill entirely.

Please make these very necessary changes before moving forward with HB 2715.

Sincerely,

Terry Anderson
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