

Kerns Rainbow Ranch, Inc.
45917 Quail Road
Haines, OR 97833
March 25, 2013

House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Salem, OR 97301

RE: NO on HB 2319, 2715, and 2736

Dear Chair Witt and Members of the Committee,

We are strongly opposed to HB 2319, 2715 and 2736 for the following reasons:

1. There is no scientific evidence that Genetically Engineered agricultural crops are a threat to neighbors, food safety, or agricultural crops produced in Oregon;
2. Roundup Ready feed corn, which is grown in large quantities in Oregon is not only a G.E. crop, but actually helps the environment by requiring less herbicide in its production;
3. Virtually all corn grown in the U.S. is genetically engineered, and that is the vast majority of available seed;
4. Genetically Engineered crops are no more a threat to neighboring farms than are other agronomic practices or crops of the same species;
5. Oregon Department of Agriculture is not a regulating agency with regard to what can be grown in local areas. It has neither the staff or budget for this new role;
6. Counties should not be forced into a role of regulating what agricultural crops can be grown within their boundaries. County budgets are already under tight constraints, and this responsibility would add extra financial burdens in staff and developing new regulations;
7. Farmers across Oregon often farm in more than one county. To add an additional layer of regulations on what we can grow would be a management nightmare.

Please vote no on HB 2319, 2715 and 2736.

Sincerely,

Tim and Jan Kerns