

Kelly Maria

From: Terry Anderson <terryander@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2013 5:46 PM
To: Kelly Maria
Subject: HB 2736 hearing 3/26

To: Honorable Members, House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Re: HB 2736

Since the Committee is working on several bills which address the issue of patented, genetically-modified organisms in agriculture, you have probably heard of some of the horrific experiences farmers have had with the huge corporations behind this technology. Farmers across the country have been harassed, sued and put out of business when genes from neighboring GMO crops have found their way--through natural cross-pollination without any knowledge or intent on the farmers' part--into related crops on their property. Monsanto Corporation maintains a legal staff of 75 dedicated to investigating and pursuing "criminal farmers", spending on the order of \$10 million annually to investigate and harass some 500 farmers per year, gaining \$23 million in judgements and somewhere between \$85 - 160 million in settlements from their targets as of 2012. (See the Friend of the Court brief filed by the Center for Food Safety in the recent US Supreme Court case Monsanto v. Bowman.)

HB 2736 is a welcome attempt to restore some common sense to this situation, by placing liability for inadvertent genetic contamination where it belongs--with the GMO manufacturers and/or growers. HB 2736 also requires notification to the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture in advance of the planting of open-field GMO crops. The bill should be modified to make this important information publicly available as soon after the Dept. receives it as practicable.

Please pass HB 2736.

Sincerely,

Terry Anderson
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