

Oregon Citizens Lobby

A growing statewide collaborative effort by citizens to promote legislative accountability.

Oregon Citizens Lobby opposes HB 2715 for the following reasons.

This bill authorizes counties to establish control areas for commodities containing genetically engineered material.

Personal Choice

Splitting the state allowing each county to determine planting of "Genetically engineered organism" flies in the face of "Oregon grown." Oregon's vegetable and flower seed production is worth \$32-50 million annually compared to Canola's \$2.5 million. Canola is a rapeseed because it doesn't go away-it's very very long lasting in the soil, and spreads like a weed, including genetic cross-contamination of specialty brassica seeds, increased insect and disease problems, and weed issues that in turn contaminate clover, grass and vegetable seeds with canola seed that cannot be sorted out from other seed. Risking our food supply and existing growers.

Fiscal Responsibility

Risking Oregon's vegetable and flower seed production is not responsible. In OSU's 3-year study, scientists showed that canola "was a one-way street," and that they would not advise introducing canola to the valley because of the risks to seed and crops.

Limited Government

County control creates massive problems. In the case of growing Canola and not having it spread to neighboring counties is huge. In the case of animals, it presumes that foods are safe to be consumed and clearly labeled. Research has not determined the effects on human consumption.

Local Control

Local control for regulation is good, but to protect all Oregon's agriculture industry, a state standard would define products for all of Oregon and protect the agriculture industry.

Free Markets

The introduction of "Genetically engineered organism" into Oregon will damage our international recognition for agriculture products and affect markets.

