

House Bill 2736

What does HB 2736 do?

This bill would:

- Exempt farmer from liability for inadvertent presence of GE material
- Establish protocols for acquisition and analysis of plant samples by manufacturer of GE plants.
- Prohibit open field growing of certain pharmaceutical crops.
- Require growers to register with ODA prior to growing GE plants.
- Requires ODA to report information regarding GE plant production.
- Prohibit certain provisions in contracts authorizing use of genetically engineered seeds.

OFS opposes this bill because GE crops are becoming a staple of modern agriculture and keeping this technology available for growers is crucial. This bill creates a substantial new regulatory structure for GE crops which will discourage their use, without justification.

OFS Opposes HB 2736

- Requiring registration of GE crops with ODA presumes that these crops are dangerous and need to be tracked which is not true.
- Registration with ODA prior to planting also limits a growers flexibility in what they plant
- GE crops are already regulated by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (part of USDA) to ensure they are no threat to neighboring crops.
- GE seed manufacturers have policies against holding farmers liable for advantageous presence of GE material
- Advantageous presence of GE material does not affect organic certification
- GE crops are no more of a threat to neighboring farmers than any other crop of the same species.
- Farmers, whether conventional, organic, or GE, need to take precautions to coexist with one another just like they have for years

Please Oppose HB 2736

OFS is a 31 year old, Board-directed, non-profit coalition of more than 13,000 individuals, organizations and businesses in Oregon that support the efficient production of quality food and fiber while protecting human health, personal property and the environment through the integrated (IPM) and responsible use of pest management products, soil nutrients and biotechnology.

(503) 370-8092 ofsonline.org

Executive Director- *Scott Dahlman* -- Grassroots Director- *Paulette Pyle* -- Office Manager- *Sandi Schukar*