

## Raszka Shelley

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**From:** sandersasylum@gmail.com on behalf of Tony Sanders <sanderstony@live.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 07, 2013 5:27 PM  
**To:** Rancier Racquel  
**Subject:** OPPOSE SB 633 - Please submit as testimony for public hearing

Senate Bill 633 is a poorly considered agricultural policy bill. Contrary to the idea that a “patchwork” of local regulations will stifle growth, it is precisely this local control and decision making that best serves the unique conditions of our various counties. For example, what’s appropriate to Josephine is not appropriate to Lane. Seed and agricultural issues are unique to each climate, culture, and business community. Please oppose SB 633 so our county can maintain control of our regional economic and agricultural future. The state has not demonstrated any more competence in the regulation of seed than the county, or the nation, and it is simply an illegal expression of monopolistic behavior in violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, a black mark on the records of the Republican sponsors, who can be easily replaced with Democrats in the next elections, if no independent candidates can be cultivated. This Committee must not legislate this Act appointing an imbecile Republican recriminating against Jackson County GMO - God for no good reason, This Committee must not be criminally negligent to legislate a conflict of interest rather treat on real agricultural issues noted in Organic Crop Insurance Modification [www.tite24uscode.org/farming.doc](http://www.tite24uscode.org/farming.doc)

The food and agriculture sector accounts for roughly one-fifth of the nation's economic activity - \$3.2 trillion of the US \$15.6 trillion Gross Domestic Product (GDP) 2012 and \$15.79 trillion of the \$78.95 trillion Gross World Product (GWP) 2011. The 1.9 percent of the US population who work full or part-time as farmers receive 0.7 percent of the GDP - \$109 billion – significantly less than half of the \$275 billion administered by USDA at a cost of \$148 billion to the FY 2012 budget. Off-farm work has played a key role in increased farm household income; which exceeded the national average by nearly \$8,000 in 2002. Unfortunately, 91 percent of all soybeans, 85 percent of all corn, and 88 percent of all cotton in the United States are now grown from GMO seeds. Before Roundup Ready soybeans were on the market in 1998 the tolerance for Roundup was 3 ppm. By the time Roundup Ready soybeans showed up at the marketplace, they had concentrations up to 20 ppm. rBGH is in 90 percent of dairy products. Chemical farms are in production on about 930 million acres in the US and 3.8 billion acres globally while organic farming practices are in use on only approximately 4 million acres in the US and 30.4 million acres globally. Food quality must be improved under the Organic Food Production Act of 1990. First, Genetically Modified Organisms (GM) and recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH) labeling must be required on food products that contain them. Second, crop insurance must be modified so that farms that have been certified organic pay 5 percent less and chemical farms pay 5 percent more in premiums. Third, organic farmers must be provided with access devices to receive payments under the Food Stamp Act of 1977. Fourth, certified organic tobacco producers and vendors of \$1 a day products, must be allowed to be 100 percent tax exempt as compensation for the excessive tax. Fifth, the preventative use of artificial pesticides and fertilizers without a prescription must be halted. Environmental liability shall not exceed annual corporate profits. Organic training and certification shall be free and in three years your harvest, mental and physical health should be better than ever.