

Raszka Shelley

From: Peter Warren <peter@nomad.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 8:06 PM
To: Rancier Racquel; Sen Roblan; Sen Baertschiger; Sen Burdick; Sen Close; Sen Prozanski
Subject: Opposed to SB633

Dear Public Representatives,

Senate Bill 633 is a poorly considered agricultural policy bill. If passed, "exclusive regulatory power" over agricultural seed would be given to the state. The premise of this bill is that the state is better at determining the economic benefits for every county in Oregon by regulating seeds, the essence of farming. Counties are not 'one size fits all.' What may work for Lake County won't work in Josephine or Douglas County. The state has no business in determining what is best when it comes to seed policy. Each county has unique characteristics and economic opportunities which sustain the diverse farming industry. Counties are the logical governing unit for seed policies so fundamental to farming. Every year in many Counties, seeds are saved, swapped, packaged, sold and germinated to suit the needs of the community. State level bureaucrats should not determine seed policies by undermining the fabric which knits farming into the entire economy of a county and its communities.

The summary of the bill states clearly:

Prohibits enactment or enforcement of local measures to regulate agricultural seed, flower seed and vegetable seed or products of agricultural seed, flower seed and vegetable seed.

Why is it in the state's interest to prevent counties, who are more attuned to their local citizens and local needs, from regulating seed in the way they see most fit? I'm quite perplexed by the need for this bill and would love to hear the motivation or cause that brought this legislation forward.

SB 633 is ill-conceived legislation. What is to be gained by the state fixing what's not broken? Leave it to the county's ability to best determine, maintain, and support the vitality and economic development of the local farming economy, and thus all of Oregon.

Oppose SB 633. It represents bad State policy.

This testimony is for the public hearing.

Respectfully,
Peter Warren
Ashland, OR