

Raszka Shelley

From: Mark Walhood <markwalhood@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 08, 2013 3:08 PM
To: Sen Burdick
Cc: Rancier Racquel
Subject: SB 633 opposition

Dear Senator Burdick,

Please accept this letter as testimony for your upcoming committee hearing on SB 633, which would strip counties in Oregon of their ability to craft appropriate seed policies.

Citizens in Jackson County have succeeded in getting a genetically modified crop ban on the 2014 ballot. Four other Oregon counties are also hard at work on similar bans. It does not surprise me given the monied, cynical politics of the day, in concert with biotech industry money, that this bill is being floated. I have never given much time to writing state legislators, but the recent disgusting giveaway to Phil Knight by Kitzhaber and the state has mobilized me out of my apathy.

I am a fifth generation Oregonian on mom's side, going back to donation land claim folks in Wasco County: gramma great ran the chevron station in Dufur for over 50 years. I am very much pro-business, have no party affiliation, and just want to see a better Oregon for our kids and grand kids. The way money runs the show these days is shameful and embarrassing, and we'll eventually all be sorry for letting big business money run the show.

This Senate Bill will effectively knee cap the future of Oregon's world class seed production industry, and take away local control of food systems, which is exactly the opposite direction we need to go as a state. Personally I sold my home in Portland and bought a small farm in Douglas County in 2009-2010, and within the next few years I hope to switch careers (Portland design review planner) and become a small-scale market farmer. The specter of GM seed spreading unchecked through the state by legal fiat from Salem has direct bearing on my plans to market organic seed and nursery plants down the road.

Healthy food and the ability for communities in Oregon to chart their own course, without hindrance from laws meant to benefit only a few monied individuals or interest groups, is of utmost importance. Please do not allow a monied few to prevent local communities in this state from establishing sensible, forward-thinking, seed and food policies in the State of Oregon, as they've done now in Maine, Hawaii, California and Washington.

I'm copying Racquel to facilitate getting this letter in the committee hearing record for SB 633. Please do so, Racquel.

Thank you!

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