

Raszka Shelley

From: Mike M <riverbend@apbb.net>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2013 11:05 AM
To: Rancier Racquel
Subject: Testimony for SB 633 public hearing

Good Morning,

As an Oregon farmer I wish to express my deep concern about SB 633. What could be more democratic and American than local control over our own agricultural resources? The people and farmers of Jackson and Josephine counties are working hard to protect our food supply and farm livelihoods from the dangers of Genetically Modified crops. This bill appears to be nothing more than a naked power grab to circumvent the will of the people. The only reason this bill exists is because the people/farmers have gotten an initiative banning growing GMO's in Jackson county on the ballot for 2014. SB633 is the GMO seed/pesticide companies response to that farmer led initiative through their proxies the Oregon Farm Bureau and Senator Baertschiger. If you need more proof just look at the wording of the bill, why is it so narrowly focused on seed? I urge you to support the will of the people (ie; democracy) and support local control of agriculture by opposing SB633.

The topography of Oregon is incredibly diverse and lends itself well to regional agriculture. Decisions affecting agricultural interests should be decided at those regional levels to protect the small/medium size farms that are the backbone of local rural economies. It is not logical, wise or in the interest of rural economic development to adopt Statewide control of agriculture laws. What is good for the Willamette valley is not necessarily good for the Rogue valley or the Klamath region. Blanket decisions made in Salem take control away from the exact people who are best informed to make good decisions about local agriculture...local farmers.

Thank you for your time to consider my opinion,

Sincerely,

Mike Merg