

March 12, 2013

Re: SB 633

Dear Senate Committee on Rural Communities & Economic Development,

My name is a Marie Bowers and I am a 5th generation farmer in the Southern Willamette Valley. I recently have returned to the family farm in hopes to continue our century long tradition. We farm meadowfoam, wheat and grass seed in two counties, Linn and Lane.

I am here today in support of SB 633. Typically I am not in favor of bills that enact regulations on farmers. However, ultimately this bill will result in less regulatory burden on farmers and on counties.

As I mentioned my family farms in two counties, I cannot imagine what kind of nightmare it would be if either Linn or Lane County decided to create their own seed policies. What would that mean for our seed transportation, seed cleaning facility, our land values, and our marketability? What about my future? Which potential county policy will allow a young farmer to succeed?

Our rural counties are struggling for funds. Their first obligation should be to the basic public services and economic development, not enforcing regulations that should be done at a state level. Oregon Department of Agriculture has the resources and scientists to make sure ALL regions of Oregon have what they need in terms of regulations.

While I am proud I come from the Grass Seed Capital of the World also known as Linn County, Oregon, I am an Oregonian first. This bill serves and promotes all Oregonians to be successful.

Thank you for your time today and I hope you support this bill for young farmers, Oregonians and all of our futures.

Marie Bowers
5th Generation Farmer
Bashaw Land & Seed