

Subject: Senate Statement Amended V2
From: Chuck Burr (chuckburr@mac.com)
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Dear State Senators,

Thank you for the hard work you do on behalf of the citizens of the great state of Oregon. My name is Chuck Burr, I am founder of Restoration Seeds company in Ashland, Oregon. I apologize that I am not able to be with you today. We are working hard to get 205 different seed crop varieties in the ground for 2013.

We sell organic vegetable seeds nationally to home gardeners and family farmers. We are members of the Oregon Farm Bureau. I worked for President Reagan and no one believes more in private property rights than I do. However, I am writing to briefly explain why instead of protecting Oregon's seed industry, SB633 will cause our seed company substantial financial harm in the long run.

The great state of Oregon is very diverse geographically ranging from high arid plains, low alpine, coastal rainforest, wide and narrow valleys. For the most part, agriculturally our state is not board and open like the midwestern United States or the imperial valley of California. We have one noted exception in a rich agricultural valley called the Willamette, unique in the world for her friendly agricultural climate and board size.

However, our organic seed company is in the Rogue Valley of southern Oregon. Our valleys are narrow and we have daily prevailing winds which make the transfer of pollen inevitable.

As a nation, the United States is **STRONG BECAUSE OF OUR DIVERSITY**. The large agricultural valleys like the Willamette and Imperial plus the midwestern states are the ideal homes of modern agriculture. We need them to feed the nation and the world. These are enormous areas of millions of acres available to grow crops and their seed stocks.

However, we need the narrow valleys that cannot support large farms for their entrepreneurial small family farmers to maintain agricultural genetic diversity and to breed the new crops of future. To breed these new crops and maintain heritage lines it is a law of physics that we must have isolation from the broad scale crop pollen sources. It is just physics.

The two models of broad scale production and small scale diversity are **ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL** to our state's and nation's future. If we bring in an heirloom vegetable seed crop into a major agricultural seed growing area we will contaminate thousands of acres worth of seed stock. If we do the reverse and bring a broad scale crop into an organic breeding narrow valley, we will contaminate a crop that the nation's home gardener's rely on.

This recently happened to our seed company. We had to destroy two years worth a major seed crop because of contamination from an industrial seed crop. We just need to keep the two systems separate. Parts of the Oregon and the nation need to be able to grow highly diverse organic seed crops and others broad scale seed crops. Remember too that large seed companies are highly mobile and can grow seed anywhere in the country or world for that matter.

The point is that the seed grown in the broad valleys are **DIFFERENT** customers than the in narrow valleys. The Rogue Valley is the home of seed growers for **EVERY** major garden seed packet company in the country and only one broad scale seed company. The 99 percent in the Rogue Valley is the 1% in the Willamette and vice versa. Our county must be allowed handle agricultural systems differently than for example in the Willamette.

Because the crops and customers are different the protections are different.

Again our seed company grows 200 different crops a year in the Rogue Valley while our counterpart in the Willamette may grow one or two. Both systems must be allowed to co-exist for the good of the state and the nation and thus be allowed to adopt their own self-regulation and protections.

Thank you for your time Senators, we are very grateful for your hard work on our behalf.

Chuck Burr
Restoration Seeds