

Testimony in support of SB 633
Senate Rural Communities and Economic Development Committee
3/12/13

Good afternoon. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today.

My husband and I are farmers. We strongly support Senate Bill 633. Our farm is around 1,000 acres of mixed cropping in Yamhill and Polk counties. Every year we go through a long process of deciding which crops to grow in which fields. This decision is based on the history of the field i.e. do we need a grassy crop or a broad leaf crop to ensure good rotation, any particular concerns with that field, do we have irrigation available, what does the market call for, what are the current prices etc. etc. This year we have ten different crops ranging from 32 acres of green beans to 280 acres of wheat.

My job on the farm is two fold. I help out as needed with the field work. Especially in the summer where I help run the combine or drive a truck. My main job though is in the office. It takes most of my time to keep up with all the office work associated with the farm.

I support this bill for a couple of main reasons. One is purely selfish. There are already plenty of regulations to keep up with. Adding another layer of restrictions - considering that they may vary from county to county just makes my life more difficult. However, I am mainly concerned where this may lead to. The process of setting arbitrary limits at the local level is not a good precedent. If we are talking about genetically modified crops the issues involved are scientifically complex and are best left to the people who we have already designated as being responsible for this. In this case the Oregon Department of Agriculture is in the best position to evaluate what if any additional safeguards need to be in place to grow a crop within Oregon. Furthermore, on a national level what we grow and how we grow it is already regulated by the USDA, EPA, and the FDA.

Please keep in mind that it is projected that we need to double world food production by 2050. The over riding principle in my opinion is that we need to make prudent use of all available tools to make sure we can feed the world.

Thank you for your time.

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