

Raszka Shelley

From: Mary Alionis <mary@whistlingduckfarm.com>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2013 10:30 AM
To: Rancier Racquel
Cc: news@mailtribune.com; newsroom@oregonian.com
Subject: SB 633

Greetings,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB 633, which would prohibit local governments from enacting ordinances governing what crops can be grown within their borders. Our state has a very diverse topography and a strong seed-growing base of farms. Preventing local jurisdictions from governing their own growing regions will not benefit the individual farms that make up the base of agriculture in Oregon. It will give priority to large corporate enterprises that by their nature have greater influence on the state government.

In Southern Oregon we have repeatedly witnessed disregard for our crops when Syngenta has purposefully planted test plots of GMO seed within close proximity to known seed crops on other farms. This resulted in the affected farmers having to destroy their crops. No official notice was given by Syngenta to the farmers; information was only obtained through observation and inquiry. This defacto "Taking" by a large corporation is evidence that they are not interested in working with their fellow farmers as a matter of mutual respect and will exert their will as they see fit.

In the same way that pesticide drift affects neighboring properties, pollen drift has a strong ability to damage neighboring crops and property. Such damage is in effect a "Taking" of that property. In the current era of Genetically Modified Organisms, and with consideration that contamination by such will not only render Certified Organic crops unsaleable, but likely will create herbicide-resistant weeds on conventional farms as well, local farms and regions need the ability to regulate as their citizens see fit. Local jurisdictions should be able to determine for themselves what is best for their regions. Local landowners and farmers, the ones affected by such potential "Takings," should have a strong say in legislation regulating substances they feel may jeopardize their livelihoods and the quality and productivity of their land.

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