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From: Margery Winter <melodimarg672@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 12:28 PM
To: Rancier Racquel
Subject: SB 633 banning local agriculture regulation

Although this bill is supported by the Oregon Farm Bureau, this is because a full quarter of the OFB's funding comes from Monsanto and Syngenta, the primary (Genetically Modified Organisms) GMO marketers in the US. This is how these companies eliminate the choice of farmers to grow what they want:

FIRST: they pay farmers to start GMO crops, but the farmers have to sign a contract promising they will not save the patented GMO seeds to replant the next year. The companies even hire retired police and perhaps drones (I have seen two in our valley already) to enforce this, as well as hundreds of intimidating lawsuits against farmers suspected of replanting these seeds.

SECOND: These GMO fields are scattered across valleys for maximum cross-pollination by wind with non-GMO crops. As the non-GMO farmers save seeds from high-yielding plants for the next year, the GMO companies then sue the farmers on the basis that their patented genes are in these farmer's crops also. This forces the farmers to buy only GMO seeds. Organic farmers have to plow under any crops that are likely to cross-pollinate with the ever-increasing variety of GMO crops, and have to special-order an ever-decreasing supply of non-contaminated seeds.

THIRD: The GMO seeds do not have the increased yield the companies promise, especially in subsequent years. The desired traits that the GMO companies seek are not so much yield as resistance to the GMO companies' own pesticides and herbicides, some of which they sell as genes in the seed (Bt in corn) and most of which they sell as sprays. But the weeds, pests, and diseases are getting resistant to the herbicides, so the companies are urging ever more poisonous sprays. Over the years, the soil organisms in the soil that renew the soil's fertility and keep it loose to absorb water die, compacting the soil. So like the mysterious, 6-year long Midwest drought, the crops get less water and yield less. Less water evaporates to form rain clouds.

Non-GMO and organic crops have proven to get at least equal yield to GMO (comparing the first year of GMO planting - and then only some crops). Soon all the natural crops get superior yield as the GMO soil degrades and the pests get resistant to the poisons. But Midwest farmers have no choice - the GMO crops are so widespread they are likely to get sued if they use non-GMO seed, or save any seeds.

And then there is the economic disaster, the ecological disaster, and the health of our livestock and people to consider. GMO crops have less nutrition, and their crop rotation returns less nutrients to the soil.

GMO modification occurs using bacteria and viruses to attack the nucleus of seed cells, and the DNA that is altered is only tested short-term for traits the GMO companies desire, not for nutrition or long-term yield. For instance, farmers in the Midwest have found that the GMO soy does not return nitrogen to the soil necessary for their crop rotation with corn, which requires lots of nitrogen. So now their costs increase further to include more fertilizer, in addition to the ever-increasing price for GMO seed and poisons. Monsanto claims of a drought-tolerant corn has proven not so.

Oh, and science has found we humans have a lot of DNA in common with the lowest forms of animals, and even plants. What is poisonous to one is poisonous to all.

PLEASE SAVE OREGON FROM FARMER SLAVERY AND ECOLOGICAL AND HEALTH AND ECONOMIC DISASTERS! The initiative SB633 is using the same method used in the Midwest to kill farmer and consumer and local choice. Farmers, including in the Willamette Valley, are trying to sue back, but the GMO companies have a lot more money and sometimes buy the farms they forced into bankruptcy. KILL THIS BILL SOON!

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