

March 11, 2013

Re: Senate Bill 633

Dear Senate Committee on Rural Communities & Economic Development,

My name is Brenda Kirsch and I am a third generation farmer in St. Paul Oregon. I have been farming full time with my family for the past seven years, and look forward to continuing on with this legacy. We grow perennial ryegrass, hazelnuts, vegetables, wheat and clover on our 1000 acre farm.

I'm writing today in great support for Senate Bill 633, the seed preemption bill. This bill if passed would allow me as a young farmer the security of knowing that the regulation of crops would be only at the state and federal level; an assurance that would go a long ways in securing the future of our farms here in Oregon.

If we begin to have local government setting regulations this would very quickly create a nightmare for me as a producer. Not only do some of our farms reach through more than one county, but we also farm in different towns. Can you imagine being regulated on what you can grow in one town and not the same in another? It would be a logistical disaster and not just for farmers, for manufacturers, and distributors as well! Beyond that our over 400 local city governments and 36 counties would feel the financial stress of taking care of these incredibly large, complex, and scientific issues that would come before them.

Federally we already have in place the USDA, EPA, and FDA to regulate for example genetically engineered crops. While on the state side we have the ODA to do their due diligence in working with state specific situations. These are funded departments that have both the expertise, financial backing and research to take on these large issues!

I believe that as a young producer we need to be forward thinking about how we start to protect our farms today for the future generations! This is just one way that you can be proactive legislatively and show your support for agriculture in Oregon. So please pass SB 633, don't cut the legs out from under any of our federal and state regulators and pass the buck to counties and cities who are unprepared for these issues.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Brenda Kirsch

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