

Chairman & Members of the Committee —  
Roblan

A little over a year ago, I became aware that there were <sup>genetically engineered</sup> GMO sugar beets growing one street away from my house and garden. As a gardener, I knew that I could no longer gather my chard seeds to plant for the next year because of potential contamination by the GMO pollen drift. To not be able to gather and save seed is a severing of an ancient and sacred process (which was bestowed upon us by our Creator.) I am seeking to protect this fundamental right to gather ~~my~~ seed and grow ~~my~~ food without fear of contamination.

As a gardener I also know that diversity contributes to a healthy agriculture, a healthy economy. What if those concerned about the dangers of GMO crops to our health and agriculture are right? What if we have put all of our eggs in the GMO basket and lost our precious heritage seeds through contamination. Shouldn't we preserve some areas as a safety measure? You can't put the genie back in the bottle. Extinction is forever.

The state of Oregon can provide useful guidance and information, but ultimately I believe it is in the best interest of our local economies to leave decisions about local agricultural practices to local jurisdictions.

Anna Cassilly  
1012 Bellevue Ave.  
Astland, OR 97120

Vote  
against  
SB 633

Mail Tribune LTE  
February 26, 2013

## Ban GMO crops

Yesterday I engaged in the annual ritual of planting flats of early season vegetables, but there was one packet of seeds I sadly couldn't bring myself to plant. They were the chard seeds I had gathered from my garden last fall. Knowing that there are GMO sugar beets growing one street away from our home, there is the very real danger that my chard may now be genetically modified through cross-pollination with the GMO sugar beets.

As the number of genetically engineered crops continues to grow, I become more concerned about how we can maintain the right of each of us to grow food for our families without fear of contamination by genetically modified pollens. It is becoming difficult to even buy seeds for certain crops that aren't genetically modified as large corporations patent their genetically modified creations and dominate the market.

As I've heard it said, "He who controls the seed, controls the food, and he who controls the food, controls the world."

I'd like to at least maintain control over my backyard. That is why I support the passage of Measure 15-119 to ban the cultivation of GMO crops in Jackson County. — Anna Cassilly, Ashland

Thanks for the thoughtful questions and comments. GMOs are organisms that have been created through the gene-splicing techniques of biotechnology. This process allows DNA from one species to be injected into another species, creating combinations that do not occur in nature or through traditional crossbreeding methods. "There is a profound difference between the types of unexpected effects from traditional breeding and genetic engineering," FDA microbiologist Louis Pribyl.

My concerns are four fold:

1) crop contamination that will eventually result in our seed supply being contaminated by GMOs so we won't have a choice of not growing/eating GMOs. US percentages of GMOs are as follows: Soy 91%, Corn 73%, Cotton seed 87%, Canola 90%, Sugar Beets 95%.

2) seeds eventually being controlled/owned/patented by a few large agribusinesses. This is severing the fundamental right and capacity to save the seeds we grow to produce food for ourselves and our families.