



From the desk of:

Bill Hancock

"Making Every Resource Count"

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Please Support Senate Bill 633

On behalf of the Oregon Wheat Growers League, we ask for your support of Senate Bill 633. The League represents Oregon's wheat growers and we are strong supporters of SB-633. It is a simple piece of legislation that ensures that the regulation of agricultural seed and seed products will occur only at the state and federal levels—not in local jurisdictions.

The regulation of agricultural seed is a complex subject and it is important to have people with the proper expertise making science based regulatory decisions. Counties and cities simply don't have the technical or financial resources to properly evaluate agricultural seed regulation, or enforce such ordinances. In contrast, the Oregon Department of Agriculture has plant scientists with the proper expertise to determine what regulations are needed on agricultural seed.

While GE wheat is not yet available, the League supports its development and believes that it will be a vital part of our future ability to remain competitive in global markets, to meet the needs of a growing world population, and to adjust to our changing climate. The provisions of Senate Bill 633 are critical to guarantee that Oregon's wheat growers will not face a future patchwork of local regulation by Oregon's 36 counties and over 400 cities.

Senate Bill 633 is not about whether or not agricultural seed should be regulated—it's about where that regulation takes place. This legislation simply ensures that crops are regulated at the state and federal levels instead of counties and cities. Organic, conventional, GE, identity preserved—all of these types of agriculture have a place in this state. Let's make sure all farmers in Oregon get to play by the same rules. Please support Senate Bill 633.

Respectfully,

Walter Powell

Walter Powell
2013 President
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Blake S. Rowe

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Chief Executive Officer
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