

Feb 11, 2014

To: Rules Committee
900 Court Street
NE Room 453
Salem, OR, 97301

From: Matthew Nelson
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Dear Chair Hoyle and Members of the Committee,

I encourage you to support HB 4100. Labeling of genetically engineered foods will not only supply individuals with information about the food they eat, it will hold economic benefits for the people of Oregon. The labeling of GMO foods promotes liberty in the food marketplace; for the farmer, retailer, manufacturer and community as a whole, and where there is liberty there is prosperity!

The economic benefits of labeling GMO crops for Farms

1. Oregon's agricultural economy is rapidly evolving to market directly to local customers. GMO labeling will distinguish Oregon grown products from imported, industrial agricultural products, thus benefiting Oregon farm operations.
2. Labeling will increase demand for non-GMO products, creating additional markets and promoting economic development for Oregon farms. Additional markets = additional income.
3. As the demand for non-GMO food items expands, Oregon food manufacturers will be able to contract with Oregon farmers to locally secure the raw materials for non-GMO products.
4. Managing and working on a small farm in Oregon is excellent job experience and teaches work ethics to young adults. Labeling will promote small farms, which increases the jobs market and employment opportunities for Oregon young adults.

The benefits of labeling GE crops for Oregon consumers

1. GMO labeling will ease the concerns of consumers who strongly believe they have the right to know what their food contains, and restore consumer confidence and transparency to the American food system.

2. In a free market economy, consumers need to be able to make informed, educated choices about what they buy. GMO food labeling will enable consumers to make those informed decisions.
3. Rather than mislead consumers, labeling will educate consumers and result in greater consumer choice.

The scientific benefits of labeling GE crops

Rather than prevent and discourage health and environmental research of GMO foods and crops, labeling will open research possibilities so that definitive scientific answers can be ascertained. In order to track the impacts of GMO foods on public health, the foods must be labeled.

By supporting HB 4100 you are recognizing the changing landscape of the food industry in Oregon, the U.S.. and across the globe. Labeling of foods containing GMOs helps to open up the marketplace for innovation, investment, growth and job creation.

Thank you for your consideration of support to HB 4100.

Sincerely,

Matthew Nelson