

February 12, 2014

My name is Ellen Bridges and I am a resident of Lane County. I am here to speak out against GMO's.

Genetically Modified Organisms

GMOs as we are talking about them here today are not the cross breeding of related species that has been practiced for centuries. What we are talking about are the introduction of external genetics into our food supply.

59 countries in the world ban GMOs or require labeling. Manufacturers already make nonGMO versions of their products for these countries. These same companies are pushing to allow GMOs in the United States.

Drift occurs when a GMO field pollinates a neighboring nonGMO crop. This is happening as we speak. Oregon is the organic pioneer of the U.S. Allowing GMO in our fields puts every local farmer's crop at risk for cross pollination. There is no method to keep drift from happening. I encourage you to watch 'Botany of Desire' for an introduction before making a determination on this subject.

I appreciate the choice you may make to not be concerned about GMO foods. By allowing GMO crops you are taking away MY choice in the matter. I ask you to please NOT take away my choice to eat nonGMO foods. Make the the decision which has been made all around the world and ban GMO crops here in Oregon.

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I welcome additional conversation on this subject