

Testimony for the public record in regards to HB 2674 and HB 2675

Sent to:

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This bill is not a solution, it is a waste of time. Here are some things that are way more important:

1. Good fences make good neighbors. CMS male sterility technology is a great fence that keeps GE genes out of the pollen. If GMO traits were linked with CMS male sterility, we could successfully coexist. This technology is possible. If you want coexistence, CMS male sterile pollen in GMOs is the way to go.
2. What happened to former Governor Kitzhaber's Task Force on GMOs in Oregon? Where is their report? Did industry representatives from both sides meet together for a year for no purpose? Step one in any further legislation about GMOs should start with the results and conclusions outlined in the Task Force's report.
3. I think it's odd that HB 2674 throws the whole issue back to the local level. Oregonians just voted that all agricultural crops had to be regulated at the state level. The WVSSA already has a pinning system. The ODA has a canola exclusion zone agreed upon at the state level. This county by county checkerboard idea doesn't only go against legal precedent; it sets up a system of segregation of growers into black and white, GMO and non-GMO zones. Will these zones be "separate but equal?" The last time we tried segregation, it didn't turn out very well.