



Oregon
Environmental
Council
It's Your Oregon

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**Testimony to the House Rural Communities, Land Use, and Water Committee
on HB 2674 and HB 2675
Angela Crowley-Koch, Legislative Director**

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Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) supports an agriculture and food system that is a vital part of Oregon's economy and rural communities, and that protects Oregonians' health and our environment. We believe innovation is an important strategy to achieve this vision. However, without reasonable systems in place to protect against the cross-pollination of genetically engineered (GE crops) with non-GE crops, OEC is concerned about the future risks to the businesses and markets of farmers of non-GE crops.

We strongly support the development of simple and practical solutions to successfully and fairly reduce the potential risk of cross-pollination posed by GE crops to non-GE crops. We believe Oregon needs to proactively create these systems now, in a balanced way.

This includes:

1. Collecting data on the geographic location of GE crops grown in Oregon in order to be able to make informed management choices;
2. Giving ODA clear authority and direction to create systems and set rules to protect against cross-pollination;
3. Requiring GE seed companies and distributors to pay a fee to the state to cover the cost of ODA's data collection and regulation, and
4. Establishing a fund to compensate farmers who have experienced demonstrated market losses from GE cross-pollination.