



## **Please support HB 2509**

HB 2509 is the product of a workgroup led by Representative Brian Clem which looked at agricultural coexistence issues. The workgroup consisted of a wide range of stakeholders, and HB 2509 was the consensus agreement.

The bill would utilize the Oregon Department of Agriculture mediation program to help neighboring farmers identify voluntary ways to deal with coexistence issues. Farmers of all types-- conventional, GMO and organic-- have managed coexistence for 100+ years. Unlike some other proposals, this bill promotes coexistence by allowing individual farmers to work out issues collaboratively with their neighbors. HB 2509 provides a mechanism to help farmers find common ground with the help of a third-party mediator and avoid future conflict.

HB 2509 would:

- **Create incentives for growers to have a conversation with each other to address potential conflicts in a voluntary fashion before going to court.**
- **Require mediation for coexistence issues that could result in a lawsuit.**
- **Utilize a mediator as a third party to help identify common ground between neighbor farmers.**
- **Rely on farmers to solve conflicts among themselves without government intervention.**
- **Allows for flexibility in how individual coexistence conflicts are mediated.**

**Importantly, this program will help us to identify where conflicts exist so we can better determine what additional policies may be needed in the future.**