

Hi, Beth. Please submit my comments into the record for the Senate Environment committee meeting regarding HB 2509.

Dear Members of the Senate Environment Committee,

I'm writing today to ask you to please oppose HB 2509. While I appreciate the ideology behind wanting to provide mediation services between farmers whose farming practices are harming the other, at the end of the day, I do not think this bill is the right fit for Oregon farmers for several reasons:

1. **Forced mediation.** There are many times when a mediation process will make sense. I love that it will be *available* to farmers. That farmers will be forced to go through this process - even if it isn't a good fit for the issue at hand is a problem.
2. **Biased mediators.** When we are talking about Organic or Non-GMO farmers needing to enter mediation with a farmer growing GMOs because the GMO farmers are contaminating neighboring fields with GMO pollen or pesticides incompatible with their organic certification, ODA doesn't feel like an unbiased party. The ODA has done more to defend GMOs than any other state agency and many organic and non-GMO farmers I know are concerned they won't be treated fairly.
3. **Unscientific propaganda.** This bill directs OSU to provide educational materials regarding the co-existence of agricultural lands. OSU has a long history of promoting GMOs and siding with GMO manufacturers such as Monsanto. They say that GMOs can co-exist easily with other non-GMO agriculture despite several dramatic contamination events and billions of dollars in damage that GMOs have done to Oregon's non-GMO farmers.

Oregon is a unique agricultural environment. If we allow the continued contamination of our organic and non-GMO crops with GMOs and cancer causing pesticides such as glyphosate, we are heading down a bleak path from which there is no easy return. We need to be encouraging and supportive of farmers who produce crops in a more environmentally friendly way - not discouraging them and allowing the destruction of their livelihoods.

Thank you for your time and service to Oregon.

Carissa Bonham
Hillsboro, OR