

Dear Senators,

I see another bill before the legislature: HB 2509, is being openly backed by **Monsanto's** main front group "**Oregonians for Food and Shelter.**"

**The bill would, in practice, put Monsanto in charge of Oregon agriculture. Specifically it would:**

1. Put Monsanto's mantra that GMO growers and farmers raising traditional and organic crops can "co-exist" into state law while ignoring the billions in economic damage that GMOs have already caused to other non-GMO farmers.
2. HB 2509 would effectively force farmers whose crops were contaminated by GMOs into a vague "mediation process" orchestrated by the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture (ODA) before a farmer could go to court to sue to try to stop GMO contamination. Farmers can already use mediation if it makes sense. The ODA has shown blatant support of GMOs and can't be trusted to be unbiased if mediation is sought.
3. If a farmer refused to mediate, HB 2509 says they could be liable for hundreds of thousands of dollars in a GMO-grower's attorney's fees in a **related** court case. **AND if Monsanto joined the case, the farmer could even be liable for Monsanto's attorney fees.**
4. HB 2509's mediation process would be orchestrated by the state agency that has done more to defend GMOs than any other: the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture (ODA). ODA could then create a costly and time consuming mediation process that would make it harder for farmers to protect themselves against GMO contamination.
5. **Funding for OSU propaganda.** The bill would also direct propaganda funding to OSU for "educational materials and information regarding the coexistent use of agricultural lands." The bill would put OSU, which has a long history of promoting GMOs, in the position of using Monsanto's talking points that GMOs can "co-exist" with organic and other non-GMO crops despite the dramatic contamination events and billions in damage that GMOs continue to cause to non-GMO crops.

Jackson County farmers don't have the financial resources, despite splendid donations from local supporters, to fight the might of Monsanto.

Please don't give GMOs another foothold in Oregon agriculture.

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