

Dear Committee Administrator,

I am writing to let you know that I am opposed to HB2509. This seems like a complicated and far reaching bill. I don't see that it is fair in anyway. It is aimed to give the large corporations even more control than they already have over our food, and agricultural system. I do not trust these companies that are pushing the use of *GMO's* which are proven to use even more chemicals (they are chemical companies!) which have ruined the soil (killing all healthy organisms), and decimated the pollinator population. The following point make this bill totally out of line with fair and healthy farming practices. Farmers are already challenged to the hilt to make a go of farming. Many work outside jobs to support their families. The use of *GMO* farming just complicates their lives even more. The Gov't needs to help the farmers not hinder them. See below:

1. **Forced mediation.** 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 make sense, but they should not be forced into a biased "mediation" process controlled by staunch *GMO* supporters at the ODA.
2. **Liability for farmers contaminated by GMOs.** 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 or their ilk joined the case, the farmer could even be liable for their attorney fees.**

3. **Pro-GMO mediators.** 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.

4. **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.

Sincerely,

Karen Potts

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**Be for the Bees!** 🐝

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