

Dear Senator Chris Edwards,

I am writing as a concerned Oregon voter, asking you to REJECT HB 2509.

This bill is clearly written to protect those few large GMO farms in Oregon. Our state agricultural economy is based on small family farms.

Based on the slant of this bill, it is designed to protect the GMO farmers which really means protect the profits of the out-of-state agribusinesses who profit from the sale of herbicides.

The small traditional farmer who's business relies on them being able to save their seeds from one season to the next, is in jeopardy of contamination from GMO patented crops. To require those farmers into forced mediation, is like requiring a rape victim to mediate with their rapist! Of course that's an extreme example, but mediation is always open as a tool, but it should not be required. And to hold the small farmers with a claim of contamination liable for the GMO growers attorneys fees is slapping insult to injury.

I am also opposed to directing funds into OSU, a public educational institution, to develop "educationa materials" which are really GMO promotional materials. By promoting the myth that it is possible for GMO and non-GMO crops to co-exist. I don't want my tax dollars spent on promoting lies that only serve to support the profits of the out-of-state chemical companies.

As an Oregon Voter, I expect our elected officials to be making decision that supportr OUR agricultural economy - NOT protecting the profits of out of state corporations.

Please kill HB2509 in committee today.

Thank you,
Peggy Smith
3250 Payne Rd
Medford, OR 97504