

# Gales Meadow Farm

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Member of the Oregon Senate Committee on Natural Resources  
State Capitol  
Salem, Oregon

Dear Senators:

This is to express our concern as certified organic farmers since 2001 about HB 2509. Our understanding is that this bill would:

- Force farmers whose crops were contaminated by pollen from GMO crops into a “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, but they should not be forced into a biased process controlled by staunch GMO supporters at the ODA.
- Create liability for farmers contaminated by GMOs. If a farmer whose crops were being contaminated refused to mediate, HB 2509 says they could be liable for GMO-grower’s attorney’s fees in a related court case. AND if Monsanto or another GMO seed Producer joined the case, the farmer could even be liable for Monsanto attorney fees.
- Appoint the Oregon Department of Agriculture to be in charge of the mediation process. This is the State agency that has done more to defend GMOs than any other (for example, consider their promotion of more canola in the Willamette Valley, which was fortunately stopped by the legislature in the last session).
- Use taxpayer dollars to require OSU to produce “educational materials and information regarding the coexistent use of agricultural lands.” So-called “co-existence” has no basis in science and never will until the wind and the insect pollinators learn to understand and respect property boundaries.

HB 2509 seeks to protect those who knowingly choose to plant crops that can damage the crops of their neighbors and the important Oregon vegetable seed

industry, as well as the out-of-state and foreign companies that produce the seeds for those crops. Why would the Oregon legislature want to do that?

Please stop HB 2509!

Sincerely, Anne and Rene' Berblinger  
Farmers  
Gales Meadow Farm