

Casa Verde CSA
1224 Alameda Road
Hood River, OR 97031
(541) 400-9510
casaverdecsa.com
casaverdecsa@gmail.com

Sen. Chris Edwards
900 Court St. NE, S-411
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Opposition to HB 2509

Dear Chair Edwards and Senate Committee Members,

As farmers in Hood River, Oregon we are writing to ask that you oppose HB 2509 and any other bill that would impose additional new requirements on farmers whose crops are contaminated with genetically engineered crops before they could take legal actions. Voluntary mediation is one thing, but why would the Legislature force farmers into mediation by threatening to make us liable for GMO farmers' court costs and attorney fees?

It is disappointing that Rep. Clem has taken to promoting bills such as HB 2059 that appear aimed at protecting the interests of farmers growing GMOs at the cost of farmers like us that do not grow GMOs. Please do not join him in this effort.

The potential for HB 2509 to be used as an obstacle to keep farmers from bringing legal claims for GMO trespass on conventional or organic crops is especially great given the fact Oregon Dept. of Agriculture would be in charge of the mediation process. Oregon Dept. of Agriculture has no credibility as a neutral mediator and has repeatedly shown its commitment is to protecting GMO-growers, not farmers raising non-GMO crops.

OSU's extension service can be valuable to small farmers, but giving OSU funding to promote the philosophical falsehood that GMOs can harmoniously co-exist with organic crops would be a poor use of taxpayer funds.

Thank you,

Moria Reynolds
Ryan Goodwin