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May 20, 2015
Senator Chris Edwards
Committee Chair
Oregon Senate Environmental Committee

Dear Chair Edwards and members of the Committee:

As Oregon family farmers, we strongly urge you to please oppose HB 2509. This bill would effectively force farmers whose crops had been contaminated by GMOs into a biased mediation process that would be orchestrated by the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture. Farmers, like anyone with a dispute, can mediate if they want to, but should not be forced into mediation under the threat that they could be liable for a GMO grower's attorney costs.

Farmers growing traditional and organic crops are being threatened with GMO contamination across Oregon and the Legislature should not support this misguided by backed by Oregonians for Food and Shelter that would make it even harder for farmers to protect their crops from GMO contamination. Additionally, instead of providing tax payer funds for OSU to echo Monsanto's message that GMOs can "co-exist" with organic and traditional crops, the Legislature should invest in real measures to protect family farmers from GMO contamination.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Laurel Bourret and Paul Brown