

Dear Committee,

I hope that this email actually gets read, rather than put aside. In any case, I am a concerned citizen who wants to have organic healthy food and who wants the valley that I live in to be a safe haven for the growing of such food. I am clear, both from direct experience, many diet experiments over a period of over 40 years, study a vast amounts of literature, and peer review science from reputable journals, that GMO plants and their foods are not as good as organic food, and that the contamination of the organic crops by the GMO crops is the spread of a human made infection that compromises the quality of the food and which can not only hurt the livelihood of the organic farmer, but also render them with an infected crop that they do not believe in even selling, and which I do not believe in buying.

The debate that is raging on is about whether or not GMOs are toxic enough to be unsafe. While I believe that they are and believe that this is the opinion that will eventually be the scientific consensus of the world scientific community, it is not the only issue with the GMOs. They are not as nutritional as their organic food counterparts and they contaminate very good and healthy organic strains of seed which I feel are a sacred trust that we will need. However, GMOs are trying to aggressively spread across the planet and become a weird kind of patented seed that people must pay royalties to in order to grow. When they were introduced in India, many farmers, caught in the debt spiral caused by buying into GMOs, felt they had no choice but to commit suicide (so that the debt would be eliminated from the family farm according to Indian law) to get out of their mess. I do not feel that seeds, being part of life, should be patented this way, and even more so that it should not be aggressively spread by pollen contamination wiping out one organic farm after another. I feel that we need a safe zone for organic crops to thrive. I predict, too, a time when humans will realize their error here, see how they let greed corrupt them and bend science out of shape to serve this greed, and eventually will want to undo the damage. By the time people realize this, it may be the at least 80 percent of all the crops on this planet with be GMO and it may be hard to rebuild the planet back to normal. At the very least, you should help create a few safe zones on the planet, just in case. This valley has the will to be this safe zone. Please let us have this.

The bill that is up does not help this and has hidden issues that will make it worse for the organic farmers.

There are at least 4 big problems with HB 2509:

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.

Blessings, Will

PS May you do the right thing in your conscience regarding all this.