
From: Patrice Fernandez
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 12:23:23 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Reiley Beth
Subject: Oppose HB 2509 today

Dear Senator Edwards,

I am a voting Oregon resident, and I am writing to ask you to please oppose HB 2509 today. This bill would effectively put Monsanto's mantra that GMO growers and farmers raising traditional and organic crops can "co-exist" into state law while ignoring the billions in economic damage that GMOs have already caused to other non-GMO farmers, but that's not the worst of it.

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.

This Bill is a bad deal for non-GMO family farmers and the overwhelming percentage of the population that has expressed the need to limit and label GMOs. Please serve the people, not the corporations, and OPPOSE HB2509.

Respectfully,
Patrice Lowes