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To: <Beth.Reiley@state.or.us>, <Sen.MichaelDembrow@state.or.us>, <Sen.ChrisEdwards@state.or.us>, <Sen.FloydProzanski@state.or.us>, <Sen.AlanOlsen@state.or.us>, <Sen.ChuckThomsen@state.or.us>

Subject: HB 2509

I operate Lupine Knoll Farm in Josephine County, Oregon. Over more than 10 years I have bred and developed open pollinated sugary enhanced corn for the organic seed market. Organic seed will soon be a requirement for organic production. My potential market is substantial.

My markets demand 0% GMO content. A few years ago, small amounts of contamination were overlooked, but with 0.0% GMO seed available from Europe, 0.0% has become this has become the standard I have to meet. If my neighbors start growing GMO corn, the only thing I can do is to shut down. Is this co-existence ?

Creating and maintaining places where genetically engineered crops are prohibited is the only way any portion of organic seed production is going to continue to come from the U.S. It is impossible to "co-exist" and produce uncontaminated seed. Without such seed growing areas, this whole growing industry has to go elsewhere. The Rogue River Valley is a logical location for a GMO free zone.

Please oppose HB 2509 regards, Jonathan Spero

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new and heirloom vegetable seeds
Oregon Tilth Certified Organic