

From: Chuck Burr [<mailto:chuckburr@mac.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 1:12 PM
Subject: HB 2509 Opposition

I am on the board of the Southern Oregon Seed Growers Association (SOSGA). As a farmer and Oregon-based seed company owner I am submitting these comments in opposition to HB 2509 and urges the committee not to approve HP 2509.

SOSGA represents Southern Oregon seed growers in who grow both organic and conventional seeds. SOSGA is impartial regarding seed production method be it organic or conventional.

However, I oppose HB 2509 for a few practical reasons:

- HB 2509 creates endless litigation. Jackson and Josephine county elections but the issues to rest in those counties. HB 2509 however reopens a can of worms for never ending expensive litigation.

- HB 2509 is not fair to the smaller family farmers most impacted by GMO contamination because the legal playing field is not level. A small family farmer can in no way compete in a legal mediation forum against professional trained attorneys hired by multi-billion dollar corporations.

- HB 2509 allows crop-contamination damage to occur, it does not preserve non-GMO safe zones that completely prevent seed crop contamination.

A significant number of SOSGA members have been directly impacted by companies such as Syngenta that have grown GMOS in close proximity to their seed crops. while our members attempted to meet with and coordinate with Syngenta ways that are crops could "coexist" Syngenta ultimately walked out of those meetings and refused to meet with us. This made clear for us that while coexistence is a good idea this is just not always a reality.

For these reasons I encourage the committee to oppose HB 2509 and appreciate your consideration of these comments.

Cheers,

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