

Please enter my position regarding HB 2059 into the hearing record:

I would like to register my strong opposition to HB2059, being discussed at today's 3p committee hearing, for the following reasons:

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, 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. What about holding Monsanto and other firms, and the farmers who cannot control their GMO crops responsible for the "trespassing" and contamination of carefully organic fields?
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.

Thank you for your consideration.

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