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To: beth.reiley@state.or.us
Subject: Oppose HB2509
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To: Committee Administrator:

Please submit my statement here to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, where HB2509 is now being considered. That is where I want it to die. I call this bill The Real Farmer Burdening Act. We have seen many attempts--many of them successful--to burden small and mid-sized local farmers in ways that don't equally burden large corporate agri-business banker-invested operations (I hesitate to call them farms). This is another bill directed at burdening real Oregon farmers.

The idea that farmers must submit to mediation through the ODA before bringing lawsuits for harm and damage caused by large commercial operations, specifically genetic drift from gmo crops, is itself a burden and puts a protective layer of liability between chemical corporations who own gmo seed patents, and their victims, the real farmers. The idea that if after mediation real farmers must then sue the agri-business operations for damages and harm, that they must pay the chemical companies's legal fees and court costs is certainly such a huge financial burden that the real farmers will not often--if ever--be able to bring such suits. And that is of course part of the intent of the bill.

The idea that ODA would mediate fairly and impartially is not justified by their position and practices regarding agri-business operations in Oregon. Despite a few token programs and funding to support the small local agro-ecological farm trying to do the right thing by the soil, water, ecology, local economies and local jobs, ODA is vastly more oriented to promoting and approving the large agri-business operation which makes no attempt to do any of these responsible things. Agri-business decimates soil, poisons the surrounding air, water and ecology with heavy toxic pesticides, minimizes local employment, and exports most of the profits out of state. I do not trust ODA to mediate fairly, and I do not trust The Real Farmer Burdening Act to help Oregon agriculture in any way.

Finally, the idea that state funds will be delegated to OSU for spreading education and information on the concept of 'coexistence' between gmo's and non-gmo crops adds another insult and atrocity to the struggles of Oregon's real farmers. OSU is a known and ongoing proponent of gmo's, from it's gmo tree research project headed by known gmo proponent Steven Strauss, to the growing of gmo test plots on OSU's extension services throughout the state. OSU will never disseminate the true and complete education and information on 'coexistence'--because coexistence is an industry idea, and not one real Oregon farmers can coexist with. Coexistence = contamination, and instead of promoting it, OSU should do its research and reach the conclusion that many nations around the world, 10 counties in the US--including 2 in Oregon--and many other research organizations have arrived at: gmo crop growing should be banned. It is that harmful to real farms, people and ecology.

Be sure and forward this letter to the Senators on the Environment and Natural Resources committee considering The Real Farmer Burdening Act. Let them know that I urge them to oppose HB2509 in favor of real farming in Oregon.

Gregg Marchese
Concerned Citizen, Jackson County OR