

From: Karen D Austin [<mailto:karendaggettaustin@gmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2015 11:38 AM
To: Reiley Beth
Subject: HB 2509

Dear Committee and Senators,

Please do not allow Bill HB 2509 to pass! Southern Oregon is being nationally recognized as a powerhouse of clean organic food, sustainably-raised meats cheeses and wines, and is a major destination for tourism based on these values.

We are climbing out of the recession and adding jobs and great products to our economy. By ignoring the 66% of Jackson County's "yes" vote to ban GMO crops, and the 58% of citizen vote in my county (Josephine), the state is not serving the wishes of it's constituents. This bill penalizes and removes the ability of our family farmers to raise clean organic food, free from artificial genes and pesticides and thereby reducing or killing the livelihoods of family farmers in our area.

The demand for organic food is growing and the American food suppliers are having to IMPORT organic ingredients to meet consumer demand. Oregon could be a leader in this country by strengthening and supporting non-GMO farming!

Again, Please vote no on HB2509

Respectfully,
Karen Daggett Austin
Grants Pass, Oregon