

**From:** courtlandt Jennings <[pickledplanet@gmail.com](mailto:pickledplanet@gmail.com)>

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**To:** <[Beth.Reiley@state.or.us](mailto:Beth.Reiley@state.or.us)>

**Subject:** HB 2509 vote no

To the Senators on this Committee,

I think its fairly obvious this bill is geared to promote dominance by a special interest, namely GMO agriculture. I would also questions the source of the bill itself as well, not the senator or signed onto it first, but who actually drafted the initial wording? Do any of you know? I doubt the first senator to sponsor it wrote it.

I think that its time we take a stand as a state that is dominated by agriculture, to support counties to choose their own destiny regarding that vital part of our economy. Many of us in Oregon, elected officials in Salem included, don't appreciate the federal government taking our rights as a state to make our own laws, Home Rule is best, the counties in Oregon don't appreciate Salem doing it to them either. Home rule is still the best bet in both scales.

In Jackson Country, over 65% (2-1) of the population voted to ban the growth of GMOs because this country is poised to be a leader in Organic seed production. We already are a leader, producing an impressive % of the organic seeds in the USA. So why should all that potential revenue be ruined by GMO's cross pollinating and polluting neighboring farms? And why should HB 2509 be allowed to force farmers into state mediation instead of directly into the courts, or impose extra burdens onto farmers who want to take legal action instead of mediation? Doesn't sound like a free state to me. If I'm violated by another farmer, and my property is damaged by pesticide drift or GMO contamination, shouldn't I have the right to a fair trial by a jury of my peers? Violation and destruction of property is pretty cut and dry.

There is no way for GMO's to "co'exist" with organic agriculture.

There is no reason for a law to make any kind of farming or agricultural practice allowable, and for counties to role back laws or pay compensation.

When was the last time you saw a county, a GMO farmer or a GMO seed company compensate a fellow farmer for the property damage because of pollen drift and loss of revenue because their seed is no longer organic?

The answer is never. It has never happened.

How many times can you see the reverse happening and farmers or ag service companies go out of business because of contamination by pollen and GMO patented material is present in an organic ( or just non GMO) seed harvest and they are forced to capitulate or pay the license fees to the patent holder...all because of two farms "co'existing".

So how if that is the situation can the two "co-exist"? and why should the great state of Oregon play so obviously in favor of GMOs and destructive ag practices in general.

HB 2509 sets a dangerous precedent for more than just Jackson County's GMO law to be overturned and could cost tax payers millions of dollars, not to mention neuter the whole process of ballot initiatives in general. If this passes where do roll backs stop? Should we just get rid of our ballot initiative system all together if the state is just going to do an end run around it in favor of deep pocketed special interests every time they throw a tantrum? Big ag over small ag, what's next, big biz over small biz, rich over poor? Oh actually all that is already happening and this bill is just another iteration of it.

And what of the obvious ties of our ODA and OSU to these larger deep pocketed influences? It's quite clear there is a revolving door from industry to the Departments that oversee them, and \$ that is given to Universities greatly influences their systems, but it's not organic farmers who work at the ODA or donate to OSU is it?

When will the elected officials that can make a stand and support the citizens that elected them and support the laws of home rule passed in their counties? Isn't the sanctity of our due process more important than caving to the demands of industrial titans? They don't care about us, or the farms that produce their crops. They just want to sell pesticides and seeds and will destroy science, medicine, health and a balanced, fair economy if they need to.

I hope you will see this bill for what it is, an end run around home rule and an unnecessary waste of time. Please vote no and kill this bill!

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Courtlandt Jennings  
Founder, President, COO  
Pickled Planet  
Ashland, OR  
541 201-2689  
cell 541 301-5430

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