

This is Linda Figurski (Bend Oregon) writing in opposition to HB 3212 and asking you to oppose HB 3212.

I plant and grow only organic vegetables and have purchased organic produce for many years. I believe this practice is healthier for the environment and me. My views are shared by many other citizens and supported by science.

I am particularly concerned about HB 3212 because it seems to have the potential of undermining the ability of Oregon and its counties and cities to enact any laws regarding local agricultural practices by defining farming practices as land use regulation. As I understand HB 3212 it seems that our state or local governments would be required to pay compensation for reduction in property values or have the ability to waive state and local laws in their entirety. This would be a major step backwards, and, with regard to laws banning GMO seeds (like Jackson County's ban on GMOs), rather than supporting healthy environmental stewardship would support unsustainable agricultural practices.

As you are aware, plants grown with GMO seeds are now becoming resistant to the pesticides they were developed to withstand, even though large agri-businesses like Monsanto assured the public that this would not be the case. So if this type of unsustainable agriculture is allowed to continue we will all be living in a world where ever more toxic insecticides will be developed and used.

Oregon lawmakers should support and uphold the local decisions made by Oregon voters and promote the interest of local farmers who have chosen not to plant GMO seeds, not large agriculture multinational companies.

Thank you for your time. I will be checking the progress of this bill carefully.

Respectfully,

Linda Figurski