

My family currently has a 4th generation farming in Oregon. As markets and conditions change the farm has grown many different commodities from food crops to seed crops to fiber flax (linen) during WWII. The fiber flax was important for making parachutes before we had materials like nylon. Currently we grow mostly grass seed, as well as some test seed plots for crops like teff (an African grain, which can be used in gluten free baking.)

Flexibility and innovation have been important factors in keeping our farm viable through the generations. The invention of nylon meant that linen wasn't needed as much, so my Grandfather found a new crop to replace it. I believe that it should be up to a farmer to decide what crops to grow based on a knowledge of their land, tools, and markets. HB 4122 would allow counties and cities to limit the choices of farmers, not based on scientific evidence or the decisions of the farmers, but on misinformation and ballot initiatives. It would create a patchwork of regulations across the state.

I strongly believe that these kinds of regulations belong at the state level and with the State Department of Agriculture as the leading agency. Please OPPOSE HB4122 and keep seed regulation at the state level where it belongs.

P. S. Since many do not understand what exactly biotechnology is and how it compares to other types of plant breeding I have attached a chart for you.

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