

Oregon's agriculture and forestry community urges your NO vote on HB 4041.

We believe there is a market for organic, conventional, GE, identity preserved—all types of agriculture in Oregon. However, setting these restrictions city by city and county by county will result in a devastating patchwork of polices for Oregon's farmers.

As drafted, HB 4041:

Creates Patchwork of County and City Seed Regulations

As drafted, this bill will result in a patchwork of 36 different county regulations and over 400 city regulations on agricultural seed. Currently, Oregon law ensures that all growers in Oregon operate on a level playing field, regardless of what county they live in.

Removes Farmer's Flexibility to Shift Crops to Market

Currently, farmers and foresters decide what type of crop to plant in any given year based on a wide variety of considerations. Markets, soil types, crop rotations, expected weather—all of these affect planting decisions. For dairy and livestock producers, their decision making hinges upon their need to feed their herd a balanced diet containing crops grown on or near their farms. Whether their county or city has banned certain types of seed should not be something farmers and foresters need to consider.

Crop Regulation Best Left Statewide

Local regulations on agricultural seed would create a significant burden on farmers and foresters, especially those who operate on land that crosses jurisdictional boundaries. It is very common for farmers and foresters to have land in multiple counties or cities, and oftentimes a single field can straddle county boundaries. Adding a restriction in one county that is not in place in a neighboring county, creates confusion for growers, and can greatly restrict their ability to plant the crops of their choosing.

County and City Regulations Could Result in Forcing Farmers to Tear out Crops

Currently proposed county ordinances would force farmers to tear out crops and lose a year or more of investment with no reimbursement. Additionally, there are pending proposals that will expose farmers to costly third party lawsuits over the crops they choose to grow.

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your NO vote on HB 4041.**

