

Honorable Shemia Fagan, Chairwoman  
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Government Effectiveness  
State of Oregon  
Subject: HB 4122  
Chairwoman Fagan and Members of the Committee

February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Chair Fagan & Committee Members -

My name is Kathy Hadley, and I testified last week in opposition to HB 4041, and I am writing to echo that sentiment opposing HB 4122. I apologize I cannot make it into Salem in person for this hearing, but I have to take advantage of the nice weather for farm work. I help operate and manage 2 diversified crop and livestock farms, one with my father in the Rickreall area, and one in the Silverton area with my husband.

I constantly hear about the overwhelming consensus of scientists who believe global warming is the result of human activity - 87% in a recent Pew Research Center Study (in cooperation with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)). Before you think I am testifying on the wrong bill, the reason I point this out is in the same study, in stark contrast to public sentiment and skepticism, 88% of scientists believe GM foods are safe.

Science is science. We cannot pick and choose when to agree with the scientific community. To exempt GM seeds from the seed preemption rule does not have a scientific basis, and would undermine the certainty for farmers that the original bill was designed to provide.

As I mentioned in my HB 4041 testimony, the recommendations from the federal AC-21 Committee (Advisory Committee on Biotechnology & 21<sup>st</sup> Century Agriculture) are key to addressing concerns regarding GMO crops. Cooperation and collaboration between neighboring farmers is the key at the end of the day, according to the Committee, which included a wide range of agricultural interests, from organic to conventional to GMO. Secondly, an insurance program could provide the assurance that farmers will get paid for their crops, even if a documented occurrence of GMO contamination occurs. Currently there is some ability for insurance coverage for GE contamination under the Seed Merchants Errors & Omissions coverage class, however, many companies are opting to restrict that type of coverage, or worse deny claims in the event the contamination occurs via pollen (making it a trespass issue). A uniform system to firm up the ability to secure that kind of coverage would be beneficial.

Mechanisms in place including ODA's mediation program, the Risk Management Agency and other crop insurance avenues can be easily adapted and integrated to facilitate the Committee's recommendations and concerns regarding GMO crops.

I am a mother to 2 young boys that LOVE the farm, and I want nothing more than to ensure they have every opportunity available to them in the future. Please do not further tie our hands with this exemption to seed preemption that would limit our choices of the crops we grow.

**Please oppose HB 4122.**