

Testimony before the Oregon House of Representatives 02/09/2016
Consumer protection and government effectiveness committee
Relating to HB 4122 restoring local control to the regulation
of Genetically engineered crops
Dear Representatives,

I would like to thank everyone here today for listening to me a 7th generation Oregonian farmer. My family has been farming here since Oregon was just a territory. I am a republican non-organic farmer and I once thought that gmo crops where the way of the future and touted them as such. Then I grew gmos for several years and learned more about them. I likely grew the largest crop of gmos in the county I live in.

I saw other farmers have crops contaminated by their neighbors and lose lots of money having to destroy their hard work. Then when gmo wheat escaped a test plot in a part of Oregon hundreds of miles away it shut down all exports of Oregon wheat. This had far reaching effects for the farm I was managing lost over \$50,000 when exports to Japan and Korea stopped.

Pollen can travel long distances up to 5 miles especially in windy areas. Gmo pollen can cross property lines and contaminate another crop. I see this as trespass and there is nothing I can do about it. In an ideal world farmers can work together but ultimately people are stubborn and will do as they please. I should not put others at risk of losing their crop due to contamination.

No farmer can legally sell a crop that has been contaminated with gmo pollen as it is a violation of federal patent law. Gmo manufactures can claim they won't sue but their tract record of doing so speaks for itself.

The Oregon wheat scare is not alone as the gmo wheat showed up in another place it wasn't supposed to be again in 2014. Hay exports have been affected also with gmo contamination stopping exports of pacific northwest alfalfa. The big markets for much of Oregon's crops such as Asia and Europe will not accept gmo contaminated crops.

I believe the only way to protect Oregon farmers growing traditional crops is by having local control. Only the local government knows its agricultural conditions and knows what works best in their area. local government can adopt to protect its farmers from the dangers gmos present. Jackson & Josephine counties had Bi-Partisan support in passage of measures doing such

I want my son and his children to have the opportunity to grow traditional crops here in Oregon without the risks of contamination. Once we lose our traditional crops we can't get them back.

Please protect the rights of Oregon's farmers by voting yes on HB4122.

Thank You,
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