

My name is Mary Middleton, Director of Oregonians for Safe Farms and Families based in Josephine County.

- In Josephine County, we believe that Oregon's Seed Preemption Bill (SB 863) is unconstitutional. Josephine County is currently in the midst of a lawsuit, brought by a *biotech funded effort* to overturn our GE crop ban. OSFF is an intervenor in the case. We are standing up to **defend the will of the people** and protect the small farmers and our premier seed growing region in the Rogue Valley and overturn SB863. We believe that the legislature hurt the small family farmers across this state when it passed this unconstitutional overreaching legislation as part of the grand bargain for PERS reform.
- We welcome HB 4122 because we believe it will right the wrong that SB 863 created. Unlike a court order, this legislative action sends a strong message to the *out of state corporate interests* that championed the Seed Preemption bill. The message to send is: **Oregon's premier seed growing regions and the integrity of our heritage seeds are not for sale.**
- We predict that one way or another, we will overturn Oregon's Seed Preemption Bill and overcome the corporate takeover of our food supply and farming practices. The passage of HB 4122 will show southern Oregon citizens that the legislature is **listening** to the will of the people, after all in May 2014 the majority of Josephine and Jackson County citizens overwhelmingly voted to protect family farmers and ban GE crops in both counties. Together this created the **Largest GE Free Zone in the Pacific Northwest.** The passage of this bill, HB 4122, will embrace the GE FREE Zone and protect the farms, the farmers and our heritage seeds in the Rogue Valley, SW Oregon and throughout the state of Oregon.
- The passage of this bill will also return agricultural decisions to local government. Now is the time to give local government the right to shape local laws that are appropriate to protect the non-GE farmers in their region from the threat of contamination from GE crops.