

Dear Committee members:

We strongly support the passage of the following bills, to protect local farmers, and to ensure the purity of our local organic crops, which are a vital part of our lives.

Sincerely,

David and Lisa Sherr

Gertrude Sherr, Julian Sherr, Talia Sherr, Jonathan Sherr, Rebecca Van Hout family

Representing 12 individuals, total.

Supporters of Farm to School programs in Jackson County, OR

Ashland, Oregon

21 year residents of Oregon

Jackson County, OR

### **HB 2469 Restore Farmers' Rights**

Family farmers deserve the right to determine their agricultural needs. In 2013, the Oregon legislature took away all rights for local governments to regulate local agriculture. Since then it has failed to put any meaningful statewide regulations in place to protect family farmers from the risks of genetically engineered (GE) crops. The Legislature needs to act to:

- Restore the ability of local farmers to address their diverse agricultural needs at a community level.
- Allow farmers to determine what will work best in their agricultural communities, such as creating GE-free zones or other solutions.
- Allow communities to protect high-value agricultural crops, such as wheat, alfalfa, and specialty seed.

### **HB 2739 Protect Oregon's Agriculture**

Over the past decade, repeated episodes of contamination by genetically engineered plants have cost U.S. farmers billions of dollars. The Legislature needs to act to:

- Hold patent holders responsible for contamination events — not pit farmer against farmer.
- Protect high-value crops in Oregon, such as specialty seed, wheat and alfalfa, which have been put at significant risk by GE contamination.
- Protect communities from the unwanted presence of invasive GE weeds, such as Creeping Bentgrass, another experimental GE crop that escaped field trials and continues to spread in Malheur and Jefferson counties.