

Dear Ms. Newell:

I am writing in support of HB 2739, which would solve problems caused by GM agriculture in Oregon. *Please forward my remarks to each committee member.* Thank you.

For too long chemical companies and GM seed patent holders (e.g. Monsanto) have been making profits by disadvantaging small family farms. They have contaminated non-GM farms, and then claimed ownership of the seed produced by the farm, they have contaminated surrounding farms with GM experiments--famously GM wheat in Oregon which shook the worldwide wheat market, and the invasive bunchgrass. They reap the profits of their activities, leaving surrounding farmers to clean up the mess. Too often, this pits local farmers against each other, when the true bad actor is the corporation that trains farmers, insists on particular practices, and provides seed and chemicals.

My understanding is that GM farmers are required by patent holders (e.g. Monsanto) to grow the crop/animal precisely as they are told. They must follow strict procedures, *by contract*. If the farmer is not making these decisions, then the farmer is only partly at fault. The chemical companies and patent holders should not be allowed to sit back and watch local people fight each other over damage it has caused, while reaping massive profits.

*The entity responsible for the harm should be held responsible for that harm.* It is that simple.

I ask that you vote in favor of HB 2739. Thank you for all you do for Oregon and its farms.

Best Regards,

Angela Zehava