

I am writing to you because I see there is a work session scheduled for HB 2469, "Relating to genetically engineered goods." I want to urge you to oppose this bill as bad policy for Oregon Agriculture.

I am the 4th generation of an Oregon farm family. My uncle farms the same ground that my great-grandparents, and grandparents farmed. As markets and conditions change the farm has grown many different commodities from food crops to seed crops to fiber flax (linen) during WWII. Currently we grow mostly grass seed, as well as some test seed plots for crops like teff (an African grain, which can be used in gluten free cooking.) I am also a member of Oregon Women for Agriculture (OWA) and American Agri-Women. My grandmother was a founding member of both organizations. As you can see my roots run deep into Oregon agriculture.

I am concerned about HB 2469 for several reasons; the main one is that it will give the government authority to tell farmers where and what they can grow, limiting markets, limiting choice, and causing a patchwork of regulations. It could result in additional burden to cities and counties, that do not have the expertise or resources, to regulate crops. Plus those farmer who operate in multiple counties would face real burdens and confusing if not conflicting regulation. Because of these reasons I testified in favor of the seed preemption bill.

I know that my Linn County commissioners also supported the law.

Oregon Agriculture has over 220 commodities & multiple farming methods (of organic, conventional, and biotech crops) have co-existence in Oregon for a long time.

Please leave seed regulation at the state level and in the capable hands of the Oregon Department of Agriculture and OPPOSE HB 2469.

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