

Dear Chair Clem,

I am a third generation farmer and I operate in Marion County North of Salem as well as in Linn County North of Albany. As I farm in two counties, I am greatly concerned that having different restrictions in different counties will create a regulatory nightmare for growers, processors, distributors and local governments.

Working in a multi-generational business with my son and son-in-law I find great pleasure and pride in watching six of my grandchildren growing up, playing and working on the same farm that my grandparents worked, played and grew old on. All five generations have drunk water from the same aquifer and eaten food grown on the same soil. I might add that I expect to live to see generation six growing up here also. This long-term vision gives me a tremendous incentive to preserve the water, soil and environment. To best accomplish this goal decisions have to be made based on the very best science available, not on emotions.

Oregon Department of Agriculture has the plant scientists and expertise to determine if additional Oregon specific regulations are needed while local counties and cities do not have the expertise or resources to regulate agricultural crops. Oregon will be best served if we continue to have Oregon Department of Agriculture regulate agricultural practices based on science and not allow the cities and counties to do the regulating.

Please protect Oregon's farmers by OPPOSING HB 2469! Oregon's seed preemption law protects my right to plant what crops work best for my farm and is important to farmers and ranchers!

Sincerely,

Bruce R Chapin
9965 Wheatland Rd N
Salem, OR 97303
chapin@onlinenw.com