

I am writing in support of HB 2469.

I am a farmer and store owner in Josephine County and for 26 years have grown a wide range of fresh-market vegetables as well as Certified Organic seed crops. Included in my seed crop plan for this coming season is beet seed and corn seed. These two crops are at great risk for GMO contamination from neighboring crops, and in fact in prior years GMO corn and beet crops have been grown on nearby properties upwind of my farm. Our county voted by the overwhelming will of the people to prohibit the planting of GMO seeds within our borders, in order to protect our farmers and also to enhance our county's economy.. Implementation of this is in jeopardy due to the 2013 rule ORS 633.74. As such, my seed crops are at risk.

Oregon communities should have jurisdiction to determine the best agricultural practices for their citizens, based on local topography, local economy, local needs. Josephine County has already voted to ban Genetically Engineered crops and to protect our local seed and vegetable producers. Other counties should also have that right. The state of Oregon has also has not fulfilled its responsibility to its communities laid out under this rule due to their inaction on analyzing and addressing GMO issues and concerns county by county over these past several years. Please bring this bill to the Floor for a full vote and return the right of agricultural determination to Oregon's communities, and specifically to Josephine County.

Thank you.

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