

Opposition to House Bill 2469

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Chair Clem, Vice-Chair's McLain and Sprenger, and Committee:

My name is Shelly Boshart Davis. My family farms and runs a small trucking business in the Tangent and Albany areas. I have many concerns on this bill from a farming perspective including being regulated by a smaller, local government that should not be able to regulate something over the heads of USDA, EPA and the FDA. The expertise and research is not enough for a local government to regulate biotech traits. GE crops have been determined by the USDA and FDA as not substantially different from any other crop, and pose no unique risks to neighboring growers.

We farm 12 fields within about 15 miles of each other. Even being semi-close geographically, each field presents a different set of variables when deciding what can and cannot be planted. Even fields side-by-side will present different variables – some of those include soil type and drainage. Some of our fields have soil good enough for a range of crops. But some of our fields only have a few options for crops. We are also restricted by equipment that we own and labor we have available to us, in addition what we choose to plant must work in our harvest schedule. For example, we cannot plant all of our fields with crops that are to be harvested in the same timeline. Farmers make decisions based on a myriad of constraints presented to them. You simply cannot add regulation by your local government. We thankfully only farm in one county, but I know many farmers that farm on county lines in multiple counties. To have to then add decision making based on the different cities or counties would be a nightmare.

This bill would make the land that each farmer owns fall victim to their local government. Farm land is expensive and is a long-term investment for *every* farmer. Whether that long-term investment was made decades ago, or last week, these farmers have now invested in that particular piece of land. My husband and I recently purchased 35 acres in Linn County. We have plans for this land that involve decades down the road. We made this purchase and now realizing that we can possibly be controlled by our local government as to what we can and cannot plant? **Passing this bill would assume you put your trust and faith into local government officials to have the knowledge and resources to make decisions about farmland and to have the control to take away tools from the farmer.** In addition, you would be giving some farmers better chances to be sustainable year after year depending on the county they live in. Farmers cannot simply move their farmland into a friendlier county.

I'd like to finish with this – **the unintended consequences of passing a law like this to the agricultural industries could be devastating.** You and I and all Oregonians rely on agriculture and trucking for literally everything we eat and purchase. We should be building up these industries and supporting them however we can, not taking away tools to be able to survive year after year and to continue to provide for all of our needs. Farming is a risky endeavor for many reasons. The language in this bill could change everything for many industries. I respectfully request this bill be removed from further consideration.

Thank you,
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