

Dear Ms. Newell,

My name is Erik Schmitz, and I live in Portland at 97211. I'm writing to urge you to distribute my comment to the House Judiciary Committee.

In this politically uncertain time, HB 2739 would allow Oregon to be a leader in reframing who is to blame for cross-contamination of Genetically Engineered crops. It has been well documented that industry insiders, specifically companies like Monsanto, are using federal agencies to cover their profiteering tracks. A recent NY Times article released documents where former EPA official Jess Rowland bragged about letting Monsanto ghost writers publish the report on the public health risks of glyphosate, which the WHO has labeled a probable carcinogen. California is now set to label glyphosate as such.

This issue comes down to income inequality. Right now, Creeping Bentgrass, a Genetically Engineered crop, is spreading in Malheur and Jefferson counties. Current legislation pits farmer against farmer. These Oregonian farmers are doing their best to make a living and both deserve to be protected from profiteers playing chess with federal agencies.

Let's have Oregon join California and continue to pave the way for progressive, people-focused legislation. You have my support.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,
Erik Schmitz