

March 15, 2017

Dear Representative,

As a horticulture photographer, I spend much of my time on Oregon farms, nurseries, OSU's trial fields and farmer's markets. I know first hand how important it is for farmers have the ability to run their farm operations using best practices as they see fit. To protect their, and Oregon's, valuable agriculture they need the support of law.

Repeated incidents of contamination by genetically engineered plants have cost U.S. farmers billions of dollars. Oregon farmers grow many high-value or specialty crops that are at significant risk of contamination by GMO crops. The issues are ongoing, GE Creeping Bentgrass is spreading in Malheur and Jefferson counties.

HB 2739 will hold patent holders, instead of farmers, responsible for contamination events. That places the onus on the companies creating the problem and keeps farmers from having to fight other farmers.

Oregon has a high-value agriculture organic and specialty seed crop. It is growing rapidly, is fairly unique and will only grow in value.

Thank you for protecting our agriculture and farmers, Robin Cushman

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