

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Dear Representatives:

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen and registered voter to let you know that I and my family support HB 2739. Our local, traditional farmers need protection from possible and probable contamination from pollen from genetically engineered crops. Over the past decade, repeated episodes 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. For instance, Creeping Bentgrass, a GMO grass, continues to spread in Malheur and Jefferson counties, wrecking havoc for farmers as well our natural ecosystems.

Local, traditional farmers are affected the most by ge crops, as the pollen that can and will transfer to the non-ge crops means that the crop grown by the non-ge farmer has been contaminated and is now property of the ge seed patent holder.

GMO crop contamination pits farmer against farmer when this contamination occurs. HB 2739 would rightfully place the responsibility for contamination events with the patent holders of the ge crop, instead of farmers.

Please vote Yes to insure that our Oregon farmers can remain true to their heritage to grow crops without fear of contamination by ge pollen. Please vote YES to pass HB 2739 this 2017 session.

Thank you.

Dave Maher
Ashland, OR