

Dear Chair Clem,

I urge you to oppose HB 2469 and uphold Oregon's seed preemption law as it relates to GE crops. GE crops are important to the economy of Union County. In our county we grow GE alfalfa, sugar beets, canola, sunflowers, and soybeans. The traits imparted to these crops through genetic engineering allow us to produce them more efficiently and sustainably, not only increasing profitability, but also allowing for reduced pesticide use.

Perhaps more importantly, this technology is one of the most valuable tools we have for meeting the challenge of feeding a growing population in a sustainable manner amidst variable climatic conditions. It holds the potential to reduce water, fertilizer, and agrichemical inputs, while boosting productivity. We should therefore be promoting and encouraging these technologies, rather than allowing them to be banned for no good reason.

GE crops have been rigorously studied and determined not to be substantially different from other crops and pose no unique risks to neighboring growers.

Please keep the regulation of GE crops in the hands of the ODA, which has the plant scientists, expertise, and resources to determine if additional Oregon specific regulations are needed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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