

15 March 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to request your support for **HB 2469**, to restore the rights of local farmers and residents to decide what is best for their own communities. A few years ago, under the threat of expanding Genetically Engineered (GE) agriculture in southwestern OR, our county of Josephine, as well as Jackson County, passed ballot measures intended to place a moratorium on the growing and possession of GE crops and products. Unfortunately, the state Legislature decided unwisely to exercise its power to thwart the intentions and desires of local people by over-riding these ballot measures. This created a huge reservoir of ill will toward state government, which has not waned.

I was never even close to being convinced of the wisdom of that move; it appeared to be a case of raw political power on display. And there is no other industry or endeavor that is more dependent than agriculture upon extremely local natural influences, such as wind and temperature and rainfall patterns, and soil types. Whatever reasons there might be for a state-wide approach to other industries, it is absolutely vital that agricultural decisions be made on an extremely local level (we have known this for literally thousands of years), and that law passed in the aftermath of the ballot measures passed in Jackson and Josephine counties was unbelievably inappropriate. It needs to be repealed, to give control back to local farmers and residents, and that is why I support HB 2469, and ask that you do also.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

William Gray
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