



Oregon Seed Association
Testimony: HB 2469

Chair Clem and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Scott Harer, I am the Board President of the Oregon Seed Association (OSA). OSA is a non-profit agricultural trade association representing the interests of Oregon's world-renowned seed industry. We have 46 seed company members who are located across the state.

OSA is opposed to HB 2469 bill for several reasons. First, genetically engineered (GE) crops are already strictly and closely monitored by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, which is housed within the US Department of Agriculture. GE crops do not pose risk to other, nearby plants, or to people.

OSA has adopted a stewardship policy to proactively establish policies for the cultivation of GE crops, a copy of which is attached hereto. OSA's objective for deregulated GE crops (or for biotechnology) is to follow a policy of coexistence, defined by the USDA AC 21 (Advisory Committee 21st Century Agriculture) to be the concurrent cultivation of conventional, organic, identity preserved (IP), and genetically engineered (GE) crops consistent with underlying consumer preferences and farmer choices. Members voluntarily agree to policies, positions, and communications that enhance coexistence. OSA is well known in the U.S. and around the world as a strong professional organization.

Additionally, this bill allows local governments to create a hodgepodge of regulations for GE crops across the state. Farmers often own land in multiple cities or counties, and sometimes, one field can span across city or county boundaries.

This bill would not only be nearly impossible to comply with, it would also put members of Oregon's farming community at a disadvantage on the global market.

Because of the aforementioned reasons, the Oregon Seed Association urges your no vote on HB 2469.

Regards,

Scott Harer
Columbia Seeds
President, Oregon Seed Association

OREGON SEED ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 4277 • WILSONVILLE, OR 97070
TEL: 503-685-7555 FAX: 503-685-9405
www.oregonseed.org