

Williams Grange
Josephine County
6 Co-signers

Williams, Oregon Grange No. 399
P.O. Box 121
Williams OR 97544

Representative Carl Wilson
900 Court St. NE, H-390
Salem OR 97301

Dear Representative Wilson:

We, the officers and members of Williams Grange No. 399 write this letter to ask you, our Representative, to SPONSOR HB 2469.

The Grange has spoken for the interests of our region's farmers for more than a century. The farms here are small and depend on specialty markets. These markets have no tolerance for or trust in genetically engineered products.

HB 2469 will allow Josephine County to enforce the Genetically Engineered Plant Ordinance passed by County residents in May of 2014.

HB 2469 will help the many farms and food agriculture related businesses in our valley to flourish and help make food based agriculture viable in Josephine County.

HB 2469 represents the will of the voters in Josephine County and the interests of the farmers and the unique agriculture in seeds and produce that exists here.

We ask you to sponsor and to support HB 2469 on behalf of the farmers and other residents of Josephine County.

Voted and approved at the February 14, 2017 regular meeting of Williams Grange No. 399.

Bob MASTER
Helm Howard Executive Committee
Chad ex. committee
Paul Overseer
Willey Brandeau Ex. Comm.
Donald J. Brandeau EX committee

Testimony From Siskiyou Seeds, LLC in Support of HB 2469

March 14, 2017

Siskiyou Seeds is a certified Organic Seed Company in Josephine County in SW Oregon that specializes in open-pollinated and Heirloom vegetable, flower and herb seeds. We distribute widely throughout Oregon and nationwide through on-line sales. We employ 10 people in our seed house and on our production farm. We grow much of the seeds ourselves and source the rest from other Organic growers in Oregon, many of whom are in Josephine and Jackson County.

As we a certified Organic Farm with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, our products must be produced in accordance with the USDA's National Organic Program (NOP), which prohibits contamination, by transgenic GE pollen. Contamination of a seed crop with GE pollen is distinctly possible for Beets, Chard, Corn, some Mustards and can render the crop virtually worthless for sale as Organic. Our business model is based upon our certified Organic status and our clientele looks to Siskiyou Seeds to assure them that they are purchasing and planting seed free of GE contamination. We grow over 400 varieties of crops including 35 varieties of the aforementioned species that are at risk from GE contamination from de-regulated GE crops being grown in Oregon including Roundup Ready Sugar Beets, GE Canola & GE Corn).

The cost for testing for GE contamination can range between \$300-400, plus the cost of the seed sample (5 pounds for corn) and the time expense. Testing of the 35 varieties mentioned above would cost up to \$16,000 annually. This is unacceptable. The citizens of both Josephine and Jackson County overwhelmingly voted to ban the cultivation of GE crops in May of 2014, thus putting the economic interests of local farmers ahead of the economic interests of large multinational biotech corporations.

Once again, we are urging you to help safeguard small family farms through voting in support of HB 2469. Thank you