



March 15, 2016

To: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Re: Hearing on House Bill 2469

Dear Members of the Committee,

We urge you to support HB 2469. As an organic certified food manufacturer in Eugene, Oregon, we see a real need to protect Oregon agriculture from unwanted contamination from genetically engineered crops. We strongly support Oregon farmers whose livelihoods are at risk due to possible adulteration of their organic and GMO-free seeds and crops.

We found this information provided by Organically Grown Company of Eugene, Oregon clearly explains the need for HB 2469:

Unwanted transgenetic contamination is a *very real* issue for Oregon farmers, particularly those who utilize organic practices, as the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) standards strictly prohibit organic operations from using genetically engineered organisms, and for those who have a vested interest in exports, as many nations in the world have banned the sale of genetically engineered crops. Oregon is unique in that we are one of the foremost regions in the world for growing vegetable seed and we are a strong exporter of agricultural products (e.g. wheat & alfalfa). In addition, Oregon ranks 5th in the nation for production of organic crops, with 657 certified producers. Consumers in many markets increasingly have concern over GMO contamination, and will reject products if there is a threat of contamination, and many buyers are now instituting mandatory testing before buying products. Farmers wishing to grow traditional, GE-free crops bear the unfair burden of needing to implement extraordinary measures to try to prevent contamination of their land, crops, and seed stock from the risk of cross-pollination and cross-contamination from GE crops.

I wish these comments to be submitted as testimony for public hearing.

Karen (Kate) Campbell
Director of Sustainability
Luna & Larry's Coconut Bliss

Luna & Larry's Coconut Bliss was founded to create a satisfying ice cream without the health and ecological impacts associated with dairy, soy, or gluten. Certified organic and Non-GMO Project verified, Coconut Bliss® is made with cholesterol-free coconut milk. The company values ecological and social sustainability, and is committed to using organic and ethically produced ingredients of the highest quality. Based in Eugene, Oregon, Coconut Bliss® has been operating since February 2005. For more information visit coconutbliss.com.