

I am a 59-year old homemaker who lives in Portland. I'm also a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist with a Masters Degree in Science Education and a vegetarian for 44 years now. I am firmly against genetically modified organisms in our foods.

Over the past decade, repeated episodes of contamination by genetically engineered plants have cost U.S. farmers billions of dollars. Though this cross contamination of genetically modified organisms are no doubt spread by the wind over which no man has control, independent farmers have had to pay huge amounts of money to GMO Corporations in "compensation". This is criminal since none of these farmers sought to have GMO crops invade their own non-GMO crops.

Oregon farmers grow many high-value or specialty crops that are at significant risk of contamination by GMO crops. Creeping Bentgrass, a GMO grass, continues to spread in Malheur and Jefferson counties.

[HB 2739](#) would hold patent holders, instead of farmers, responsible for contamination events. **THAT IS WHERE THE RESPONSIBILITY BELONGS!** Personally, I don't think these patents should have ever been granted, but since that is done, this bill is desperately needed to protect Oregon farmers. Please support this bill and ensure it gets to the floor for a vote.

Sincerely,

Susan Upton, RDN (ADA#11284), MEd