

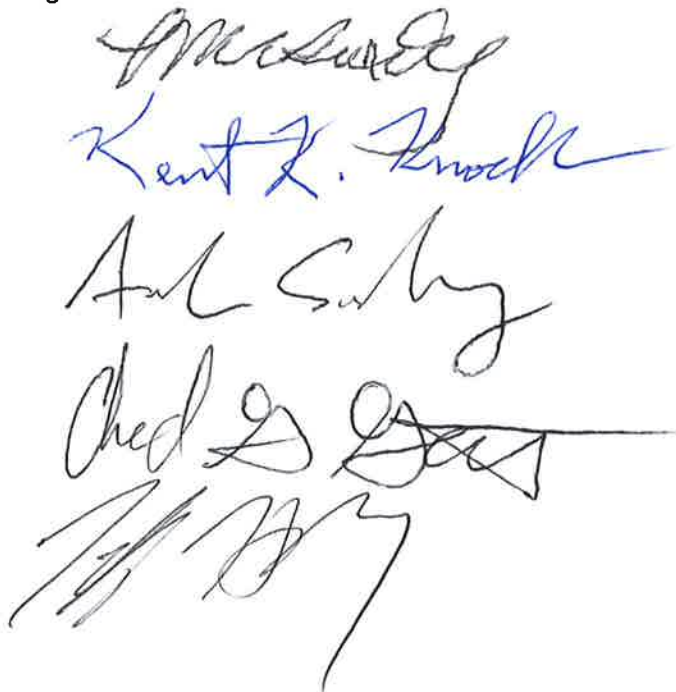
This letter is in support of the bill HB2469 in the 2017 Oregon Legislative session . We are the Southern Oregon Seed Growers Association a.k.a. "SOSGA". We support this bill wholeheartedly. A brief summary of our reasons follow. Written and aural testimony will also be presented by SOSGA and some of it's members.

SOSGA is an organization of, by and for local farmers in Southern Oregon, currently concentrated in Jackson and Josephine Counties. Our purpose is to support our local farmers in the production of seed crops. Many of our farmers are certified Organic so they can produce Organic seeds which command premium prices. In order to produce Organic seed, the seed crop must be isolated from Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) which can contaminate the seed of the same species. Contaminated seed cannot be sold by Organic farmers or even conventional farmers if they do not have a license from the owner of the GMO patent.

HB2469 allows local political jurisdictions to decide local issues, considering their local geography, climate and population. This repeals SB863, passed in 2013 as part of the "Grand Bargain" orchestrated by then Governor Kitzhaber. HB2469 restores the rights to local citizens and counties to decide what type of agriculture best fits their local environment and culture. Please note that Oregon has very diverse geography and climate as well as human culture. A one-size fits all law overriding local control is not appropriate for this issue across all of Oregon. HB2469 would restore the rights in all Oregon counties. For us, this is especially important for Josephine county whose citizens have already voted to protect local farmers and consumers over the interests of big chemical companies. More detailed testimony will be presented by SOSGA and some of ^{the} its members elaborating on our ^{re}asoning on HB2469.

Thank you for your consideration.

Signatures of our Board members:



The image shows five handwritten signatures in blue ink, stacked vertically. From top to bottom, they appear to be: 1. A signature that is mostly illegible but seems to start with 'M...'. 2. 'Kent L. Knack'. 3. 'Art Saly'. 4. 'Chad S. [unclear]'. 5. A signature that is mostly illegible but seems to start with 'B...'. The signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.