

Misty Freeman
LPRO Analyst
Oregon Legislature

Ms. Misty Freeman,

Please support HB 2469, Restore the right of local farmers and communities to, among other things, protect their specialty crops and farmland by establishing GMO-free zones.

The disappointing challenges farmers have experienced in the Madras, Bend, Redmond (Bend Bulletin) and other locations throughout the Willamette Valley and Oregon are just the beginning of a long battle. You must be aware the GMO industry is a big money maker and therefore has many highly paid lobbyists who apparently have no interest protecting our children's, our families or even their own health. These lobbyists are most probably misguided or blinded by \$\$\$\$.

The pollen of GMO crops has been carried by the winds causing contamination of NON-GMO crops grown next to the GMO crops and as much as many miles away.

This is fact proven by OSU scientists. (Bend Bulletin)(Oregonian) (Willamette Week) and others.

How can this be fair to the educated and rapidly growing groups of farmers who want to provide healthy, unadulterated foods to their families and the public.

It is like Organic Gardening. Prior to the hundreds of chemicals introduced to farmers after WWI and WWII, this was the most common and popular method of farming.

During the past 20 years this method of farming has rapidly become accepted by the masses. Even some of the big AG companies are going Organic or moving in that direction.

Big AG companies have jumped on the organic wagon because they recognize major trends and make more money because WE the public desire and will pay more for healthy, unadulterated food.

The health advantages of this method of farming has been proven by science. Compare the nutrients of regularly farmed fruit and produce to that of organically grown fruit and produce. All the major chains and even small grocery stores are jumping on the Organic band wagon because the public has learned there is a better, healthier food product available.

Science has also proven many of the challenges and dangers of GMO foods. They thought GMO designed plants would be the savior of Mankind.

Around the World farmers are discontinuing the use of GMO plants and reverting to the proven organic seeds, plants and methods. (National Geographic Publications)

They thought that DDT would save the world and after further detailed research, the Government banned and removed the WWI chemical from the marketplace.

They thought Roundup was a panacea and now Independent tests on an array of popular American food products have found many samples contain alarming residue levels of the weed killer glyphosate. Monsanto has many law suits against them due to dangerous chemicals that are poisoning our soils. (ECO Watch, USA)

We hope you will provide the legislators with this information to help them make the right decision.

Thank you for your support on HB2469.

Kind regards,

Stan Thompson
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