

Dear Ms. Freeman,

I'm writing to support HB 2469 which would restore the rights of local farmers and communities to protect their specialty crops and farmland by establishing GMO-free zones. We need meaningful statewide regulations to protect family farmers from the risks of genetically modified crops.

I currently live in Pendleton where it's almost impossible to find locally grown certified organic produce. I used to live in Corvallis where there was an abundance of locally grown certified organic produce. All of my favorite organic farmers expressed concern over possible GMO contamination from neighboring conventionally-grown crops. There is a high cost of time and money to gain Organic Certification, yet it's so easy to lose that certification by GMO contamination. Organic farms, mostly small, family-owned businesses, deserve the protection offered by GMO-free zones. Therefore, I support HB 2469.

Please share my comments with all members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Jean Reiher
Pendleton, OR