

Date: April 11, 2017
To: Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee
From: The Association of Oregon Counties
Subject: Senate Bill 1037

Please add to the records of the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee these comments related to Senate Bill 1037, which is on the committee's agenda for public hearing on April 11, 2017.

AOC opposes Senate Bill 1037

The Association of Oregon Counties believes that regulation of agricultural seeds or seed products is properly reserved to the State.

SB 1037 simply addresses the question of governance. The bill would overturn for a particular purpose the current preemption on local regulations that affirms the State is indeed the appropriate entity to control agricultural seed or seed products.

AOC opposes SB 1037 for these reasons:

- The statewide approach avoids the financial burden and regulatory nightmare of a highly technical/scientific determination process being imposed on counties, and potentially varying from county to county.
- Counties have neither the technical expertise nor the ability to enforce measures to protect production or use of seed or products that are not genetically engineered from adverse impacts of seed or products that are genetically engineered.
- Counties simply do not have the resources to manage an entirely new responsibility, the regulation of agricultural products related to genetic engineering.

In Oregon's shared services system of governance there is a careful balance between services regulated and delivered at the county level, those provided by the State, and those that are shared. Agriculture, fish and wildlife, geology and minerals, and teacher standards are a few examples of where the State is primarily responsible for regulation. SB 1037 would disrupt this balance in the area of agriculture.

AOC urges you to keep regulation of agricultural seeds or seed products where it belongs, with the State.

Please oppose SB 1037.