



Testimony in opposition to SB 1037  
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I am a partner and Vice President of Columbia Seeds LLC located in Albany, Oregon.

There are ideological differences over whether or not genetically engineered crops can coexist with non-GE counterparts. There are excellent models of coexistence in place that opponents of biotechnology will not accept, instead promoting positions of exclusion.

Should Senate Bill 1037 advance into law, state-wide preemption is no longer effective and Oregon loses uniform regulations across the state. Farmers already deal with numerous uncertainties around markets and weather, and this would be a significant new uncertainty. In particular, local citizens who lack an economic stake in farming or the necessary knowledge of existing farming and industry practices become empowered to restrict farmers and by extension the people they do business with. If the GE Task Force and Oregon legislature were unable to reach a consensus on many aspects of coexistence, can we reasonably expect local citizens to do better? I do not have that expectation.

Significant advancements in plants used for food, fiber and medicine will be introduced in the future and we owe it to ourselves to give all farmers the tools to do what is best for their family farm and their family business.

I urge your opposition to SB 1037.