



Testimony in opposition to SB 1037
Jake Stockfleth
Oregon Seed Association
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I am the manager of Oregon Seed Cleaning located in Salem. I also serve on the board of the Oregon Seed Association, currently as Secretary-Treasurer of the organization.

As a member of the Oregon Seed Association and having spent a lifetime in the agricultural industry—I grew up on a family farm—I am opposed to SB 1037 for several reasons.

Genetically engineered (GE) crops are already strictly and closely monitored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. GE crops do not pose a risk to other plants or to people. In fact, GE crops have a history of producing better yields to feed a hungry world while using less water, fertilizers and pesticides for a safer environment for us to live in.

My family and customers who are farmers have plenty of other things to worry about, from the weather to domestic and international markets where their crops are consumed. They do not need a law that would limit where to plant and grow the crops in a rotation that helps build the soil and break weed and pest cycles that affect different crops.

I would like to give you an example of why a bill like this is not needed, as experienced in my years on the family farm. One particular year we were going to plant white sweet corn next to our neighbor's field, who was also a corn grower. You do not want white corn and yellow corn to cross-pollinate. We visited with them and learned they also had a contract for white corn and were considering where to plant their crop. By communicating with our neighbor, we determined we could each plant our white sweet corn crops next to each other. We did not have laws to tell us where we could plant certain crops. We worked out how to coexist with each other by communicating.

Finally, the GE Task Force formed by Governor Kitzhaber was made up of interested stakeholders and experts on the subject of GE crops. Between them and the Oregon Legislature, they were unable to come up with consensus on many aspects of coexistence. I do not see how local citizens, who know little about farming, could do a better job.

Thank you for your time and I urge your opposition to SB 1037.