



# POLK COUNTY

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## Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Testimony opposing SB 1037  
April 12, 2017

Chair Senator Michael Dembrow and members of the committee,

SB 1037 seeks to undo thousands of hours of public engagement and substantial financial investment in the protection of state preemption of seed and seed product regulation. 2013 SB 863, and the subsequent statute ORS 633.738 was designed to protect the ag and timber economy of Oregon by avoiding a patchwork of governance across the state. SB 1037 would authorize county governments to administer local ordinances that would jeopardize Oregon Right to Farm protections as well as substantial economies that provide the life blood to those counties.

ORS 633.738, though imperfect in the eyes of many, provides clear direction to the state of Oregon and counties regarding the regulatory responsibility of agriculture and timber seed products.

This will be the fourth legislative session that I have been involved in protecting the preemption statute. I continue to stand behind statements I have made in 2013, 2015 and 2016 legislative sessions supported by my peers across the state and through the Association of Oregon Counties *that counties have neither the technical expertise nor the capacity to enforce seed or seed product regulations*. There is also no additional funding source identified by any group that advocates for this local control. Local controls will threaten unstable general fund revenues in cities and counties by means of workload costs generated by staffing and bureaucracy that those governments are not prepared to afford.

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. ORS 633.738 maintains that balance and puts regulatory responsibility where the talent and resources reside to administer them. Please vote no on SB 1037.

Commissioner Craig Pope  
Polk County Board Chair