

Senate Environment & Natural Resources Committee - Hearing date: April 12, 2017

Testimony from David Gremmels, Owner & President, Rogue Creamery, Central Point, Oregon and Rogue Creamery Dairy Farm, Grants Pass, Oregon in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 1037

These two entities have 43 employees located in both Jackson and Josephine counties.

Chair Dembrow and members of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee:

Rogue Creamery's organic Dairy Farm features 68 certified organic grazing acres; both Josephine (location of Rogue Creamery Dairy) and Jackson (location of Rogue Creamery Cheesemaking facility) counties in Oregon are legislated GMO free. Its dairy practices the highest standards focused on holistic and organic practices. The organic milk produced at Rogue Creamery's farm is core to its world renowned cheeses along with the commitment to organic practices and processes which includes GE free feed at the dairy and ingredients at the creamery. This is what its customers ask for and demand. Organic farming and cheese making has created markets outside Oregon bringing dollars into our state. This allows for increased investment in our local economy. Rogue Creamery has created a dairy and creamery template that other states envy. The California Department of Ag used the dairy as a template for rewriting its PMO (Processors Milk Ordinance). A GE free county provides traditional farmers like Rogue Creamery protection from economic suicide through standardization. It provides Rogue Creamery and its neighbors the ability to promote traditional farming confidently without threat of contamination from neighboring GE crops.

Rogue Creamery has many accolades which promote Oregon, the Rogue Valley and Josephine and Jackson counties. One of the organizations it is most proud of being recognized by is the Good Food Awards. The criteria for a Good Food Award is:

Made with real ingredients, local wherever possible, and respect amongst the people whose work goes into creating it. Good Food is made with good animal husbandry and without the use of artificial ingredients, hormones, synthetic pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer or genetically modified ingredients.

GE free is a key advantage for our community, farm, cheese and business. High-value agricultural crops, such as wheat, alfalfa, and specialty seed must be protected so that businesses such as Rogue Creamery can make a difference economically, environmentally and socially in Oregon's rural communities.

Farmers growing traditional crops have the right to adopt local laws to protect their crops against GE contamination.

Rogue Creamery supports the passing of Senate Bill 1037.
Thank you.