

**From:** Naturespirit Herbs  
**To:** [SENR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** SB 1037  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 12, 2017 8:11:34 AM

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Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

We urge you to support SB1037 and to send it to the full Senate with a recommendation to pass it.

My husband James and I have been growing organic medicinal herbs in Josephine County for almost 30 years, in addition to harvesting medicinal herbs from the wild. We have a successful business and employ several local people as well as many of the youth in our area.

SB 1037 would restore Oregon counties' rights to protect local farmers' crops from harmful effects of genetically engineered crops.

Passage of the bill will provide a legislative fix for Josephine County and protect the GE-crop ban passed in 2014 in our county which shows the will of the people here.

SB1037 is a crucial, non-partisan bill that deserves your support. GE-free zones like Jackson County are important seed sanctuaries that not only protect traditional and organic farmers and food producers from the very real threat of transgenic contamination, but GE-free zones can also greatly benefit local businesses and economies. We live in a unique seed growing region with many organic farms, seed producers and nurseries, and there is a growing trend and demand for organic food.

We are very concerned about transgenic contamination of conventional or organic crops as well as wild plants. We are also very concerned about the increased use of pesticides in GE crops and the evolution of pesticide-resistant weeds.

It has been four years since the voters passed the ban and the state of Oregon has not taken any action to address the contamination issue. Th federal oversight of GE-crops is also very poor. Now is the time to return the power to counties and local governments in Oregon to protect farmers and local businesses from the negative impacts of GE crops.

We urge this Committee to move SB1037 forward to untie the hands of local governments in Oregon.

Sincerely,  
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