

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Hearing date: April 12, 2017

Testimony from Kate Morgan of Medford in support of SB 1037

SB 1037 is essential for Oregon's already large and growing high value agriculture crops and seeds. Restoring farmers' rights to make decisions locally can help protect specialty crops from contamination by GE crops.

Oregon has such diversity in its growing areas – climate, soils, etc. - that managing those decisions at the local level only makes sense and takes the burden off of the Oregon Department of Agriculture, which has chosen to do nothing about the threat of contamination by genetically engineered (GE) crops.

Furthermore, the bill provides an option for economic development, particularly in rural areas of the state, by allowing GE issues to be decided by the very people that they affect. Some areas may choose to keep the status quo. Other areas, especially those that want to grow GE-free seed crops, may choose to protect those crops from GE contamination and sell into the fast-growing market for GE-free seeds.

I urge you to support passage of SB 1037.

Kate Morgan  
Medford