



Oregon Seed Association
Testimony: SB 1037

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to submit testimony. We are past presidents of the Oregon Seed Association, and wish to express our grave concerns with SB 1037. OSA is a non-profit agricultural trade association representing the interests of Oregon's world renowned seed industry. We have 46 seed company members who are located across the state.

The Oregon Seed Association is opposed to SB 1037 bill for several reasons. First, genetically engineered (GE) crops are already strictly and closely monitored by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, which is housed within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. GE crops currently on the market have been determined to pose no plant pest risk.

In fact, genetically engineered crops maximize productivity by producing a better yield while using less water, soil, space or pesticides. Additionally, GE crops are less susceptible to weeds, disease or pests. The use of genetic engineering also has environmental benefits in that genetically engineered plants require less pesticides and herbicides.

This bill allows local governments to create a hodgepodge of regulations for GE crops across the state. Farmers often farm land in multiple cities or counties, and sometimes, one field can span across city or county boundaries.

This bill would not only be nearly impossible to comply with, it would also put members of Oregon's farming community at a disadvantage on the global market.

Because of the aforementioned reasons, the Oregon Seed Association urges your no vote on SB 1037.

Regards,

Jon Odenthal, Valley Agronomics LLC
Mike Weber, Central Oregon Seeds, Inc.
Dan Walters, DLF Pickseed USA
Chris McDowell, Vista Seed Partners
Keith Laxton, Landmark Turf & Native Seed
Ray Brubakken, Landmark Turf & Native Seed
Bryan Muntz, IntegraTurf, Inc.

Jay Burr, The Scotts Company
Brad Dozler, Lewis Seed Co.
Rich Underwood, Innovative Seed Marketing
Galen Troyer, Smith Seed Services
Gordon Zielinski, Retired, The Scotts Company
Nancy Aerni, Turf Merchants, Inc.
Bill Dunn, Seed Research of Oregon