

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

SB 1037 has nothing to do with whether Genetically Engineered crops are safe. And it's not a popularity contest either—many markets already reject GE technology, for example, international exports and the organic industry. GE contamination causes damage to commercial crops that Oregon farmers depend on for their economic livelihood.

Some have said this bill will create winners and losers. The losers are already any farmer who wants to grow GE-free in much of the United States.

Oregon is different—so far—and has a variety of major crops scattered throughout the state that have different needs. By default the state legislature chose non-GE farmers as the automatic losers in 2013 when it stopped their ability to even consider any regulation of GE crops. SB 1037 isn't about picking winners and losers, it's about letting communities have these conversations and decide what's best for them, without being hamstrung by a state that has failed to take any action.

I support SB 1037

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