

April 12, 2017

Greetings,

My name is Christina Arapolu and I am a Southern Oregon vegetable farmer with a farm stand and store in the town of Rogue River, Jackson County and I want to express my opinion in favor of ~~House Bill 2469~~. SB 1037

I believe that each county in our State is unique and should be allowed to decide if GE crops should be grown in their county, since GE crops have the potential to contaminate non GE crops. This is not a bill in favor or against GE crops but a bill to allow citizens the right to choose what is being grown around them.

Our narrow valleys in Jackson and Josephine Counties cannot co exist with the drift of GE crops and we in Jackson County were able to vote and choose to protect our farmers that grow traditional crops and seeds. Since that time, Jackson County has become a seed sanctuary, becoming a more valuable seed growing region and attracting new young farmers to the area.

My farm is on the northwest end of Jackson County near the border of Josephine County and my irrigation comes from the Rogue River and the Grants Pass Irrigation district which is in Josephine County. We are watching closely what happens in Josephine county before we offer some of our land to young farmers that are looking to grow seed crops for contract. Josephine County residents voted in 2014 to protect their farmers from GE contamination, but the preemption law took the right out from under them and the other counties in Oregon to vote on it. Not long after that the State ~~then~~ allowed counties to vote whether cannabis could be grown in their local jurisdictions. So my questions ~~are~~, where is the consistency? And how ~~does your~~ reasoning for this law effect one agricultural crop and not the other? ~~the~~

Please support this bill and be consistent with our agricultural laws and give democracy back to the people who live and work in our unique farming communities. Please vote in favor of ~~HB 2469~~. Thank you for listening.

SB 1037
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