

Submitted by Mary Alionis Re: SB1037

More than 200 local Rogue Valley farms support GMO crop restrictions

in Southern Oregon. These are vegetable, berry, herb and seed farms; orchards and vineyards; ranches, dairies and nurseries; grain and alfalfa farms; conventional and organic farms; one-acre and thousand-acre farms. We are voting **YES** because we want to grow clean, uncontaminated crops for our local, national and international markets. In addition, more than 100 local health care professionals and hundreds of local businesses also support a **YES** vote.

Multinational biotech and chemical companies are a threat to our farms.

Right now, Syngenta, a Swiss biotech company is leasing dozens of plots throughout our valley, most likely to field-trial their GMO crops.² These can cross-pollinate related plants in our farms and gardens for miles around, leaving our seeds and seed-based crops no longer GMO-free. These biotech trial plot locations and their crops are kept secret, so we don't know our risks. Many of our local farms have suffered substantial economic losses when they could not sell their crops due to possible contamination.

WE

ARE

your
LOCAL
farmers

Biotech companies want to keep

using our valley for their "outdoor laboratory."³ While local farmers provide jobs, pay taxes and contribute millions of dollars to our local economy, the biotech companies are simply exploiting our region, merely leaving lease fees behind. And their practices can and do ruin our crops.⁴

Six huge biotech and chemical companies are funding a strong majority of the opposition's campaign.⁵

Their goal is to continue selling their patented seed and the chemicals it takes to grow them. Opposition ads are spreading blatant misinformation to confuse and scare voters. These ballot measures are only about GMO crops and their impact on our valley. They are NOT about the libraries, or law enforcement or county budgets. They will NOT cost the counties large amounts of money. Growing GMO crops requires a legal contract with a biotech seed company; no responsible company will sign a contract in a region where their seed is prohibited. Enforcement will be nil. These measures will NOT prohibit the use of Roundup on fence-lines or the sale of corn chips in the store. Nobody will have to pull up their lawn —there is no GMO lawn seed. The government will NOT suddenly have full access to your land. Farmers will NOT go out of business because they can't plant GMO crops.

What these measures WILL do is protect our farms and gardens from

Please support your local farms & local economy



Vote



YES

Jackson County Measure 15-119 | Josephine County Measure 17-58

The Science of GMOs

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) result from splicing genetic material into an unrelated species. Such organisms are not hybrids and not mutations, and **would not ever exist naturally**; they must be created in a laboratory setting. Many GMOs have stacked traits, meaning they have multiple materials spliced into the host plant. The primary traits added to GMOs are herbicide resistance and pest or pathogen resistance. All GMO seeds are patented by the companies that produce them; farmers must grow them under contract and cannot save seed from them. If a farmer plants these seeds without a contract, he or she will be sued by the company holding the patent.

Science is based on theory, and theories often change over time. **GMO crops are basically a science experiment in modifying natural organisms**, and were released into our food supply based on the theory that they are safe. In truth, GMO crops are relatively new, having been in commercial production just 18 years.

That's just one generation of children—**one experiencing an epidemic of health and autoimmune disorders.** We believe just one generation of eating GMO food is inadequate to assume safety, to decide to irrevocably alter the majority of several staple food crops to something not found in nature, and that **it is irresponsible.**

Many regions around the world are banning GMO crops because they feel the science is inconclusive and they want to ensure a supply of uncontaminated food. An example, Bavaria, the largest state in Germany has recently banned GMOs, becoming the 62nd GMO-Free zone in Europe. **These regions are not convinced of GMO safety for humans, animals or the environment**, and follow the precautionary principle in determining their mandates.

The biotech industry would like us to think that those food industries, market-places, countries and citizens that want non-GMO food and seed are being unreasonable. They state that contamination with biotech genes is inevitable when planted alongside conventional crops.

We do not accept the inevitability of the contamination of our planet's seeds. We need a safe place in the USA to grow clean seed or we'll have no back-up if this grand experiment fails.

Southern Oregon is unique. It's a great place to grow so many different crops. It also has perfect conditions for seed production due to its long narrow valleys, varied growing conditions, hot dry summers, good soils and clean water. Many farmers here grow seed on contract or for their own seed companies. We are known nationwide as a premier seed-growing region.

We have an amazing opportunity today—with this vote we are choosing. We can choose to be a biotech laboratory or we can choose to be a GMO-free safe haven, a place for multitudes of diverse, locally owned farms. Our crops will be trusted locally and worldwide as GMO-free. We will have clean seed and clean land for future generations. Our local economy will surely benefit too, as other GMO-free regions have proven.

Vote Yes for our future.

This ad paid for by: Siskiyou Sustainable Co-op | Whistling Duck Farm | Wolf Gulch Farm | Oshala Farm | Fry Family Farm | Easy Valley Farm | Swallow Springs Farm | Mellonia Farm | Abbie Lane Farm | Native Greens | Thompson Creek Organics | Mindful Earth Farm | Pholia Farm | Wagon Trail Gardens | Barking Moon Farm | By George Farm | Wandering Roots Farm | Full Bloom Farm | White Oak Farm | Bluebird Farm | La Mera Gardens | Rogue Valley Farm to School | Restoration Seeds | Munson Farm | Wild Wines | Port Orford Sustainable Seafood | Willow Witt Ranch | Dancing Bear Farm | Bel Avenir Farm | Afternoon Zephyr Farm | Rise Up Artisan Bakery | Chickadee Farm | Seven Seeds Farm | Aluma Farm | Sunspirit Farm | Wandering Fields | Evans Creek Vineyard | Rogue Farm Corps | Rogue Artisan Goat Dairy | Shooting Star Nursery | Yale Creek Ranch | Quixotacres

1 Their GMO crops can cross-pollinate and contaminate our crops. 2 April 15, 2013 meeting of the S. Or. Seed Growers Assoc., Syngenta rep acknowledged leasing "a few dozen" plots in Jackson County for seed production. 3 Syngenta contributed \$75,000 to the Good Neighbor Farmer PAC, funding opposition to measures 15-119 & 17-58. See footnote 5. 4 Cross-pollination between GMO and non-GMO plants leaves the resultant seeds and seed-based crops contaminated with GMO genetics and unsalable in non-GMO markets. 5 Monsanto, Dow AgroSciences, BASF Plant Sciences, Bayer Crop Sciences, Syngenta Company, and DuPont Pioneer contributed \$455,000 to the Good Neighbor Farmer PAC. Or. Sec. of State at <http://secure.sos.state.or.us/>