

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Lupine Knoll Farm Testimony in Support of SB 1037
Hearing April 12, 2017

Lupine Knoll Farm in Josephine County produces and sells organic vegetable seed. We are also breeding new and tougher varieties for organic and other growers. Top Hat corn, Tuxana corn and Zanadoo corn were developed at Lupine Knoll Farm are now for sale.

Our buyers are seed companies that specialize in organics. The tolerance of seed buyers for genetically engineered content is zero. Other countries will provide GMO free seed when we cannot.

The ban will spare us the expense of testing for GMO's. But further, if our neighbors grow GMO corn, we run the risk of failing those tests. At that point our business and our breeding work are finished. Once GMO sequences are in the plants, it is nearly impossible to get them back out.

And it is not just our corn. This year, engineered pepo squash is on the market and now our heirloom pie pumpkins will need to be tested. Soon it will be all crops.

The Jackson – Josephine County line runs through the middle of the Rogue Valley. Pollen follows the wind and the insects. It takes the whole neighborhood. The sensible boundary for this GMO-free area is the Rogue Valley watershed.

The question is not "are GMO's safe?" The question is "should we permit a refuge, a place where seeds without engineered genetics remain available, and should we place that refuge where the residents and farmers have asked for it".

We ask you to let Josephine County farmers participate in what has become an option for Jackson County landowners. It makes Lupine Knoll Farm more viable. It is an opportunity for Josephine County Farmers. Allow Josephine County restrictions on genetically engineered plantings to stand.